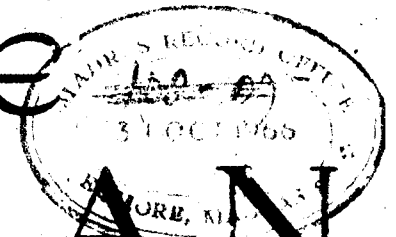


R.R. No. 4/67. (P)

THE



INDIAN ARCHIVES

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Volume XV

January 1963—December 1964

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United States *by Ernst Posner*

A Programme for Business Archives *by David
S. Macmillan*

The Library of the Royal Commonwealth Society
and its Indian Material *by D. H. Simpson*

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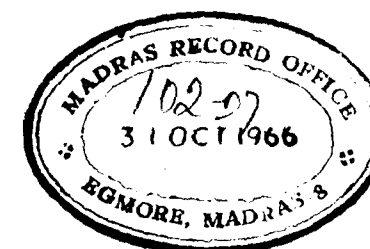
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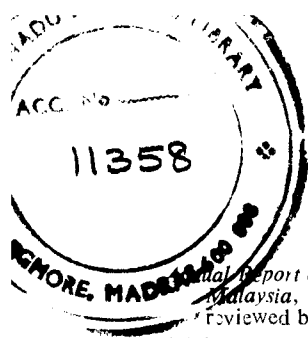
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THE INDIAN ARCHIVES

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A NOTE ON HISTORICAL RECORDS AND STATE CENTRAL ARCHIVES IN BIHAR

K. K. DATTA

SCHOLARS dealing with the modern period of Indian history now rightly try to base their studies on unpublished original records preserved in the Archives in and outside India. The importance of records is very great in these days when attempts are being made for a scientific and correct study of the different aspects of a country's history, and accurate details are needed from day to day for administrative purposes in democratic and welfare states. "Records are the means", writes an eminent archivist, Philip C. Brooks, "by which public officials in a democracy are accountable to the people. They are tools of administration, the memory of an organization, the embodiment of experience, protectors of legal rights and sources of many kinds of information".

Before India attained independence in 1947, there had been organized central archives offices only at Delhi (the National Archives of India) and in Madras and Bengal. Of the other provinces some had established record offices, e.g., in the Punjab, and some were making efforts to start such offices. So far as the princely states were concerned, some of them, like Hyderabad, Baroda, Kolhapur, Pudukkottai, Patiala, Alwar and Bhopal, had record offices of their own, and others like Travancore, Mysore, Jaipur and Udaipur had record offices and manuscript libraries combined together. In free India consciousness about the value of archives both for purpose of research and as service agency to administration is gradually developing, and it is a happy sign that some states have taken due steps to establish Archives. Bihar, for example, has now got a State Central Archives which is utilized by research scholars and which also supplies information about governmental enquiries for purposes of administration.

Importance of Bihar as a store-house of precious historical antiquities and records can hardly be overestimated. In his speech at the 13th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, held at Patna in 1930, Sir Jadunath Sarkar significantly observed : "We have long felt that our task would remain incomplete so long as we did not

hold a session in Bihar and study the records of a province which yields to none in the importance of the part it has played in shaping India's destiny from the dawn of recorded history. Here I have found opportunities unequalled anywhere else in India, for studying the past history of India at its fountain-head. Here I have received a living inspiration from the great monuments of the past all around us". Bihar, an important centre of civilization age after age, is one of the richest fields for the exploration and collection of historical materials. As the capital province of the three great empires of ancient India (the Mauryan, the Gupta and the Pala), as the birth-place of the Indian reformation movements of the sixth century B.C., which proclaimed to the world gospels of love, liberalism and non-violence, and as the seat of cosmopolitan universities like those of Nalanda, Vikramsila, Oddandapuri and Rajrasana, which not only attracted in their seminaries students from distant corners of the world but also sent out to the far off regions scholars trained in different branches of learning as prophets of the sublime messages of Indian culture and civilization, Bihar cannot but reward the efforts of zealous students with a rich harvest of materials relating to the early periods of Indian history. Plentiful crop of historical documents can be gathered also by students of the Indo-Muslim period, our knowledge of which is still incomplete, unsatisfactory and sometimes precarious. The story of the pre-Sur Afghan rule in Bihar is an unwritten chapter of Indian history; the glorious regime of the Indo-Afghan revivalist Sher Shah requires more critical studies; and there is considerable gap in our knowledge about Bihar during the rule of the Timurides in India. Further, a careful study of the multifarious economic activities of Bihar in the past would undoubtedly prove to be a useful source of knowledge to those who are formulating plans for economic improvement of this State in the post-war world. Systematic academic efforts should be made for correct evaluation and due appreciation of the influence of the liberal cult of Sufism on Bihar and also of the various other aspects of Islamic culture of which this State continued to be an important centre for a long time.

Bihar has considerable importance for records relating to the history of the Indo-British period. There is no doubt that the seeds of British political supremacy in India were sown on the fertile soil of Bengal and Bihar. The successes of the British East India Company in other parts of India followed as a logical sequel to the revolutions accomplished by the decisive battles of Plassey and Buxar. "The superiority of our squadron", observed Clive in his letter to Pitt, dated 7 January 1759, "and the plenty of money and supplies of all

kinds which our friends on the coast will be furnished with from this province (Bengal), while the enemy (the French) are in total want of everything, without any visible means of redress, are such advantages as, if properly attended to, cannot fail of wholly effecting their ruin in that as well as in every other part of India". Referring to the critical condition to which Madras had been exposed after Haidar Ali's capture of Arcot, Sir Eyre Coote observed in his letter to the Supreme Council in Calcutta, dated 10 November 1786: "It may not be amiss to give you early information as a guide for making the necessary provision for the future disbursement at this settlement, which, by the nearest computation I can make, will rather exceed seven lacks of rupees per mensem, every cowrie of which must come from Bengal, as I find there are no resources here from whence a single pagoda is to be expected". In appreciation of the favourable attitude of the Supreme Council, Sir Eyre Coote again wrote to them on 1 March 1781: "It affords me pleasure to receive your repeated assurances of support in money for the expenses of this army, as upon its safety and maintenance, employed as it is now in contending with the most powerful and formidable enemy among the native powers of Hindostan, I am satisfied, the very existence of the British interests in this Eastern World depends".

Many in Bihar took prominent part in the revolutions of the mid-eighteenth century, which gave a new turn to the political destiny of this country. Their descendants living in different parts of this province, have, in most cases, inherited, among other things, valuable collections of manuscript works and documents which deserve careful study to accelerate the march of the science of history. They have indeed their utility from the point of view of family interests, but they also form a rich cultural heritage which can be lent to academic use for the services of the community of man. To rescue such hidden treasures from the ravages of time, climate and also human indifference, to make suitable arrangements for their due preservation and effective utilization by earnest-minded researchers, who have to work in our country very often under handicaps, are sacred and responsible charges on the State, the corporate institution of the university, and the enlightened members of the public.

Many of the old *zamindari* offices had *mahafizkhanas* modelled on the district record rooms. Some of these collections have been examined by the Regional Records Survey Committee, Bihar, and described in its annual reports. Two highly valuable private series of records are the Darbhanga Raj Records, which contain Persian records from the time of Akbar until 1860 and scientifically arrange

and well-preserved English records from 1860, contributing to our knowledge regarding the history of north Bihar, and the Bettiah Raj Records relating to the northern half of the Champaran District.

Though the Secretariat records in the State Archives do not go back beyond 1859, there are some district and divisional records series now preserved in the State Archives which date from the post-*Diwani* years of the 18th century and the early 19th century. That is so because the districts and divisions continued to be local administrative units since long before either the Government of Bihar and Orissa or the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal came into being. The Bhagalpur District records start from 1771, those of Saran from 1782, of Purnea from 1775, of Tirhut from 1782, and so on. Similarly the Chota Nagpur Divisional Commissioner's records begin from 1798, the Bhagalpur Commissioner's records from 1811, and the Patna Commissioner's records from 1812. The Board of Revenue records start from 1772. These records were so far preserved in their Collectors and Commissioners' record rooms and have recently either been brought to the State Central Archives or are in the process of being brought there. Valuable first-hand information relating to the local history, social and economic conditions and administrative arrangements are available in them.

The idea of establishing a central record office in Bihar, where old historical records lying scattered in the record rooms of the various Government offices at district and divisional levels throughout the State could be brought for better preservation and research, engaged the attention of the State Government in 1915. Efforts were made in this respect also in 1919 when the Indian Historical Records Commission was constituted, in 1930 when it had its 13th Session at Patna, in 1937 at the instance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. F. W. James (then a Judge of Patna High Court), and in 1941 when the Indian Historical Records Commission was reconstituted. I was nominated State representative on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission. In 1945 an *Ad Hoc* Regional Records Survey Committee in Bihar was appointed under my guidance to examine the records in the State. I took the first opportunity to impress upon the authorities the importance of the establishment of a central record office. Between 1919 and 1948, the Indian Historical Records Commission passed as many as 14 resolutions on this subject, but nothing was done until 1950 when the Government of India asked the State Government to take steps for the establishment of one such central record office in Bihar. The matter was taken up by the Revenue Department and they requested the Board of Revenue for their advice

In the meantime, this matter was separately considered by the Political (Records) Department. When I was consulted about it as Convener, *Ad Hoc* Regional Records Survey Committee, I submitted my recommendations. But with the opening of Organization and Method Section, the matter was left to them and they submitted their report on the reorganization of the Secretariat Record Room on modern lines in 1952. Concurrence of the Board of Revenue was also received. The proposal for the reorganization of the Secretariat Record Room into the State Central Archives, Bihar, where all the pre-1901 records from the offices of the Board of Revenue, Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors were to be brought, preserved and thrown open to *bona fide* research scholars, was approved by the Council of Ministers on 2 February 1954. The reorganised office commenced functioning from 1 March 1954. By the end of 1955-56, pre-1901 records of the offices of Commissioners of Chota Nagpur, Bhagalpur and Patna and those of the district offices of Ranchi, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Shahabad were brought to the State Central Archives.

The transferred records in the State Central Archives have been arranged serially on the racks retaining as far as practicable their original order. The arrangement and custody of the records are governed by rules laid down in the Bihar Secretariat Instructions (Chapter IV, Section 4.1 to 4.47).

The collections in the State Central Archives are mainly of two categories, (a) Secretariat Records, and (b) Mofassil Records, apart from the gazettes and electoral rolls and printed books in the library. Records pertaining to the earlier administration of the areas now incorporated in Bihar are in West Bengal Archives, but printed copies of relevant records have been received from the Bengal Government. Among the acquisitions from district and divisional offices here have been many hundreds of volumes of pre-1857 and post-1857 records and Persian correspondence as well as documents of the Mughal period.

A library of over 4,000 old and rare books, official publications and allied reference books is attached to the Archives. Some of its collections are of great value.

Records transferred by the Secretariat are accompanied by printed indexes from which consolidated indexes are compiled. The printed alphabetical indexes are from 1859 to 1908.

The first conscious effort to prepare a hand-book of Bihar and Orissa records was entrusted in 1924 to Sir Jadunath Sarkar. As he had to go as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, this work

was later taken up by Prof. K. P. Mitra, Principal, D. J. College, Monghyr. The hand-book was published in 1933 under the caption *A Hand-book of the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Records, 1771-1859*. With the transfer of many of these records to Patna it is no longer a guide to location. The Chota Nagpur records are press-listed. Certain histories based on the records have been brought out by the State Government, as well as a series of publications by the Gazetteer Revision Section of the Revenue Department.

Selections from the Unpublished Correspondence of the Judge-Magistrate and the Judge of Patna, 1790 to 1857, edited by me, was published in 1954. *Catalogue of Patna Commissioner's Records, 1813-1853* (First Series), also edited by me, came out in 1963. A pamphlet describing the records of the Purnea and Saran Collectorates was issued by the Bihar Regional Records Survey Committee in 1959. An article entitled 'District Records in Bihar', written by Sri Narayan Saran, Record Keeper, State Central Record Office, appeared in one of the issues of *The Indian Archives*.

After the reorganization of the State Central Archives in 1956 and the appointment of a Director a systematic publication programme was taken up. It was under this scheme that publications, such as *Unrest Against British Rule in Bihar, 1831-1859* in English and Hindi, edited by me, appeared in 1957. *Some Farmans, Sanads and Parwanas, 1578-1802*, also edited by me, came out in 1962. Another book entitled *Select Documents on Mahatma Gandhi's Movement in Champaran, 1917-18*, edited by Dr. B. B. Misra, was published in 1963. A set of other works, intended for publication, are in preparation. They are : (a) A Hand-book of Bhagalpur Commissioner's Records (1832-1857), (b) A Hand-book of Bhagalpur Collectorate Records (1778-1857), (c) A Catalogue of Patna Commissioner's Records (1813-1853) (Second Series), (d) Selections from the Judicial Records of Bhagalpur District (1793-1805), (e) Descriptive Lists of the Patna Commissioner's Monthly Bundles (1854-1874), and (f) Collections in the State Archives (in two volumes).

The archival holdings of the State Central Archives are mainly as follows :—

I. Proceedings A. and B., Proceedings Volumes, Registers of Correspondence, etc.

Secretariat Records (All Departments of Government except P.W.D.)	
Patna Commissioner's Records	(1859-1959)
Chota Nagpur Commissioner's Records	(1811-1900)
Bhagalpur Commissioner's Records	(1795-1900)
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Shahabad District Records	(1781-1800)
Ranchi District Records	(1837-1900)
Chaibassa Collectorate Records	(1837-1900)

II. Special acquisitions :—

A large number of old Persian *farmans* and *sanads* of the Mughal period.

Records relating to Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran (1917-1918).

Records on Freedom Movement in Bihar.

A large number of rare publications of the Government of the early period.

III. Gazettes :—

<i>The Calcutta Gazette</i>	(1832-1950)
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<i>The Bihar Gazette</i>	(1912 to date)

IV. Electoral Rolls (1956-1962)

V. Library :—

It contains old manuscripts and official publications of the 19th century and earlier period, collected from mofassil offices. Noteworthy among them are the following : (i) Complete sets of the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* (1884 and 1908 editions), (ii) Hunter's *Statistical Account of Bengal*, (iii) Hamilton Buchanan's reports on Bihar Districts, (iv) Annual guides and gazetteers of Bengal and Agra (1941-42), (v) *Bengal Regulations* (1793-1834), (vi) *Bengal Code*, (vii) Decisions of Sudder Diwani and Nizamat Adalats, (viii) Revenue hand-books, (ix) Village guides, (x) Wilson's *Early Annals of the English in Bengal*, (xi) B. H. Baden-Powell's *Land Systems of British India*, Vols. I-III (1892), (xii) Selections from East India House records, and (xiii) Todar Mal's diary, a Persian manuscript of the 16th century giving land revenue accounts of Bhagalpur District. Scholars who have seen this work are of opinion that even if it is not in Todar Mal's own handwriting, it is a contemporary official document.

THE STUDY OF STATE ARCHIVAL PROGRAMMES IN THE UNITED STATES

ERNST POSNER

IN 1963 nearly two million persons, most of them Americans, visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to view the great historical documents on display in its Exhibition Hall, and the figure for the current year, 1964, promises to be even higher. It would be quite misleading, however, to draw from the number of people who thronged into the majestic structure on Constitution Avenue conclusions in regard to the public interest in archives and to think of the United States as an archivist's paradise where his cause is dear to the hearts of the people and where it enjoys broad public support. On the contrary, much remains to be done if the record of our country's past is to be preserved unimpaired.

The problem of public archives administration in the United States—and it is of public archives only that I wish to treat—is essentially the problem of archives administration in a federally organized country, and that is why it is hoped that this article will be of some interest to Indian archivists. In centrally administered States, like France for instance, a complete network of archival agencies is controlled by the head of the national archives administration with the result that uniform standards and regulations apply throughout the system. A very different situation exists in the United States where the Archivist of the United States is not the “archives tsar” of the nation, for his responsibility does not extend beyond the National Archives and the records centres of the National Archives and Records Service, which is a part of the General Services Administration. To these records centres and to the National Archives come only the records created by Federal Government agencies, and none of those created by State, county, or local governments. This means that, in matters archival as in other cultural fields, the States are sovereign and masters of the destiny of their own records. If, in spite of such decentralization of archival responsibility, we have moved towards a common philosophy of the profession and towards the adoption of common techniques, this is due to the example the National Archives has set for the major archival agencies of the States; to the activities of the Society of American Archivists, including the work of its committees and the publication of its journal; and finally to courses and seminars in archives administration that have been and are being offered in various places, particularly in Washington, D.C.

A concerted effort, however, is called for if throughout the nation public archives administration is to be raised to a high level of excellence.

That the archives of the several States were sources of prime importance and worthy of diligent care was first realized in 1899, when the American Historical Association, spokesman for the historical profession in the United States, established its Public Archives Commission to survey and describe the archival holdings of each State. Twenty years later this gigantic task had been accomplished, for within that time most of these holdings had been listed in the Commission's annual reports, archival agencies had been established in many States, and an archival profession had been born. In fact, so much progress had been made that in 1930, Solon J. Buck, later to become the second Archivist of the United States, proposed to measure this progress by means of another survey. This survey, he suggested, should “for each State, summarize the important general and special legislation concerning the making, custody, and supervision of State and local archives” and would, in general, set forth the practices of the States with reference to the condition, care, and accessibility of their archives.

Rejected at that time by the American Historical Association, the proposal for a survey of State archival legislation and practices was renewed in 1954 by David C. Duniway, State Archivist of Oregon and first Chairman of the State Archives Committee of the Society of American Archivists. There was a delay, however, until seven years later when Philip M. Hamer, President of the Society, obtained from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., a grant to finance a survey of State archival agencies in the United States and in Puerto Rico. The survey was to produce a set of standards that would guide State legislators and officials in providing for the professional care and administration of public archives in their respective States.

The Study of State Archival Programmes, as it was officially called, began on 1 February 1962, under the directorship of the present writer and with headquarters in the National Archives building in Washington, D.C. In conducting the Study, the following technique was used: all information available, including data obtained by the State Records Committee in 1961, was consolidated into State-by-State digests, and these digests were mailed to heads of archival and records management agencies in the various States and formed the basis of discussion during visits made by the Director of the Study. Visits, organized into some seven “circuits”, began on 11 March 1962, and intervals between these circuits were used to compile preliminary essays on the States visited. After the travelling phase of the project had been completed on 30 April 1963, final drafts of the State essays were sent to heads of archival and records management agencies with the request that they add the latest data available and that they object to any statements or

evaluations made by the Director of the Study if they wished to do so. These State essays were to form chapter II of the final Study Report. A short history of the evolution of State archival administration would be chapter I. Chapter III would present a summary of the findings of the survey, and the Statement of Standards contained in chapter IV would set forth those standards that should govern the organization and administration of public archives in the States.

This Statement of Standards might well be considered the keystone of the Study Report. Because the Statement was to represent the views of the American archival profession, it was first thoroughly examined by the Director's Advisory Committee, consisting of five distinguished archivists, and then reviewed in an all-day session by the Society's Committee on Professional Standards. This Committee is composed of the past Presidents of the Society and may be said to embody the corporate experience of those men and women who have led the American archival profession during the last twenty-five years. In the course of these reviews, the Statement of Standards underwent considerable changes all of which have meant an improvement upon the Study Director's first draft.

I shall not attempt to present a summary of the Statement of Standards because it should be read and appraised in its entirety. Suffice it to say that the Standards deal with the following main aspects of archival administration: organization for archival service, including necessary legal authority, budgetary requirements, personnel, and physical facilities of the State archival agency; the agency's function in general; the archival function in particular, including control over the disposal and accessioning of records, their arrangement and description, reference service, photographic reproduction and publication of annual reports, guides, etc., and care and preservation of local records; and finally, the role of the archival agency in records management.

The case for developing a set of standards and recommending their adoption to State legislators and officials is amply borne out by the information furnished in the State essays and by the summary of findings. Undoubtedly there is great need for better care of public archives in most of the States, because the picture revealed by the survey is by no means cause for complacency. This was to be expected. In regard to their scope of authority, status, functions, and activities our State archival agencies differ to the point of incomparability. In a number of States, the archival function has been taken over by the State historical society or the State library with the result that historical interests and the application of library techniques have interfered with the proper handling of archival material. In recent years, discrepancies were further accentuated, for in the leading States the State Archivist has been put in charge of records

management, while in other States this function is assigned to an administrative agency of the State Government or has not been provided for at all.

At this time six States—Alaska, Maine, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota—have no legally constituted archival agency, though in Montana and in the Dakotas some archives have drifted into the custody of the respective historical societies. In 18 States the archives programme is entrusted to an historical agency, such as a department of archives and history or a State historical society. Five States—Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, and New Mexico—have independent archives management agencies. In 11 States—Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia—the archival agency is a component of the State library. In five States—Hawaii, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Washington—archival responsibility has been placed in a division of the fiscal or general services department. And in five States—California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island—archives administration is under the office of the Secretary of State.

Dissimilarity, however, does not result solely from different organization. It stems also from the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of archival laws and programmes. In all of the categories enumerated above there are States in which, because of shortage of funds and personnel, archival agencies are underdeveloped or have become dormant, and there are States in which strong archival and records management programmes are well under way. Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, and North Carolina have long been leaders in the field; and others—Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, to name but a few—are making significant progress. Symptoms of such progress are not lacking. In a number of States, for instance, new buildings are going up or are being planned. Easily the most impressive of these structures will be that of the State of Georgia in Atlanta, a monument to the enthusiasm and to the untiring efforts of Mary Givens Bryan, Georgia's State Archivist, whose unexpected and premature death has been a matter of deep sorrow to her friends and colleagues. The State Archives of South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas already occupy fine new buildings, and equally good housing will soon be enjoyed by the State Archives of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina.

The greater attention now being paid by the States to the preservation of local records is another hopeful sign. Since, with one or two exceptions, their concentration at State archival headquarters has proved impractical, two new approaches to the problem are developing. One of these is micro-filming of local records, which makes possible the production of security copies and, in addition, of reference copies that can be made available

to users in the research room of the State Archives. Microfilming, however, even if done on a selective basis, costs a great deal of money, and that is why a number of States have adopted, as a more practical solution, the device of the State-controlled regional depository. These depositories are established at institutions of higher learning, or possibly at historical societies, to house and service local records after they have been processed by State archival personnel.

Following the precedent of the Federal Government, a number of States have charged their archival agencies with responsibility for the management of records during their current and semi-current phases, while in others such responsibility has been made a function of the financial or general management agency of the State. The number of State records management programmes that may be said to be effective, is still small. So far, most of the programmes have been limited to inventorying agency records, to developing retention and disposal schedules, and to administering records centres in which records of transitory value are kept and serviced until their retention periods have expired. Other aspects of records management, however, such as developing standards, procedures, and techniques for managing correspondence, forms, mails, and files, have received scant attention, mainly because programmes are still in their early stages and because staff is too small to handle all phases of records management.

Except for such encouraging evidence of progress in some aspects of archival activity, American State Archivists feel that too little has been and is being done to provide the archival services indispensable in the modern State. Budgets have not been sufficiently increased to provide necessary equipment and to raise salaries to a level likely to attract promising applicants for jobs. In fact, because of low salaries, well-trained and competent archivists have accepted teaching positions in the rapidly expanding universities and colleges, positions that offer them better pay and ample leave during the summer.

Shortage of personnel hampers the operations of many an archival agency, with the result that little time can be spent on what are essential tasks of the archivist, namely, the analysis, arrangement, and description of archival material. It is revealing that until recently no State archival agency had an up-to-date guide to its holdings, which, in turn, adversely affected their use by interested persons. This deficiency is in the process of being remedied, for published guides have recently become available for the archives of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Illinois. In regard to the general need for published guides, the Statement of Standards referred to above says categorically: "Publication of a guide to its holdings is a duty of the State Archives."

Other States are likely to follow the example of Illinois, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania—a guide to the archives of Maryland is in preparation—and it is hoped that, in general, the standards promulgated in the Study Report will serve as a useful guide for States that are seriously concerned about the preservation of their archives. This does not seem too sanguine an expectation, because the mere fact that the survey of State Archives programmes was under way has already prompted improvements in a number of States. In others, committees have been appointed to concern themselves with the future of the State Archives. The Study Report, published by the University of Chicago Press under the title *American State Archives*, has been widely distributed to legislators and responsible State officials. It will convince them, it is hoped, that the "provision of archival service is so basic a prerequisite of the modern State, so rightful a demand of its citizens, and so essential a component of its governmental and cultural affairs that no State can afford to be without it [and that] . . . it requires so small a portion of the State revenue that no State has an excuse for not providing it".

A PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS ARCHIVES

DAVID S. MACMILLAN

THE influence of business records on Australian historical writing is just beginning to be felt, though in both Britain and in the United States business archives have been more widely used. In the last few years, the work of the Business Archives Council of Australia has brought home to scholars and researchers an awareness of the existence of such records and of the importance of such material for their work. Looking ahead, it may even be said that there is a good chance that the increasing use of business records for historical research will radically alter many of the existing concepts of Australian history.

It is not always old firms which hold old records of historical importance. Mergers and amalgamations can result in comparatively new concerns holding the material of predecessor firms and firms which they have absorbed. The experience of the Business Archives Council of Australia in the last ten years has shown that modern firms, even of recent foundation, can hold deposits of valuable old records acquired in this way. There is also the consideration that the non-current and even the current records of today are the archival material of the future. This is a consideration that is worth keeping in mind when the selection of material for destruction is being made, for on that selection depends the view which the people of the future will come to hold of our activities today.

Modern media of communication like the telephone and the tape-recorder are transient, and it is a cause of some concern that much of the record of the activities of our time will simply not be preserved for this reason. The maintenance of documentary records of an informative kind is an obligation we owe to the future, and it is to be hoped that the economic historians and researchers of one or two hundred years from now will not have to look back on a great hiatus or gap in the records of our time. In this connection, several questions have been raised in recent years about the legal validity of modern types of record such as microfilm and magnetic tape. It would seem that here we have a case where, as an American historian once put it, "the Flag has outrun the Constitution". Modern technical developments in the fields of photography and electronics have made available types of record which were simply not envisaged in the days when our legal system was drawn up. In the Middle Ages basic documents were inscribed on sheepskin or vellum by scribes using quill pens, and the parties in legal matters certified the documents by appending wax impressions of their seals. It seems inevitable that there must be an adaptation of our legal requirements to fit the changed conditions

of the modern world, but from the archives point of view, however, it is to be hoped that this does not lead to overmuch dependence on records of a very transitory type, which will not last as a permanent record.

One hundred years ago, the minutes of the boards of directors of companies were written out fully and in detail. Discussion was recorded as well as decisions, and such minutes are today a valuable mine of information about economic attitudes and the way in which decisions were reached. Too often today minutes have become reduced to the mere essential formulae of record. Their value as historical documents will be far less than that of the type of descriptive minutes kept in the past. There is, too, the question of the poor quality of many of the materials used for purposes of record. The quality of many of the poorer grades of paper used by business firms for purposes of copy is extremely low. Paper of this kind, so often used for carbon copies of letters and memoranda, quickly deteriorates and here, too, there is a real danger that valuable information will be lost. In the case of really important communications, there seems to be a case for using a better quality of paper for carbon copies.

The first step which a firm must take in facing the problem of how to cope with an accumulation of old business records is to decide on the policy that is to be followed. The alternatives are deposit and retention. Many firms simply do not have the resources or the storage space to accommodate or organize a large mass of old records. In the last few years a number of organizations in Australia have become increasingly interested in acquiring and storing material of this kind under safeguards of "confidentiality". To mention only a few of these, there is the Australian National University in Canberra, the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne and New England, and the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

It may be very suitable for a firm to make the decision to lodge its old records in such a repository under the care of another organization which will maintain the confidentiality of the material, and provide items for the firm as they are required for consultation. This is an easy way out and the Business Archives Council of Australia in New South Wales and Victoria has provided advice to many firms about places of deposit and the conditions under which the material may be lodged in them. Generally, however, the policy of the Business Archives Council has been to encourage firms, wherever possible, to maintain their own records. In the case of large concerns, there is a great deal to be gained by the firm if it retains its own material and houses it adequately, organizing it so that it can easily be consulted. This can be done with very little staff and often at comparatively little expense. Such a policy has the advantage that it can provide a solution for the recurrent problem of records which are passing out of use, for if a repository is set up in the firm for old records

of an "archival" type, non-current material can be passed on to it in accordance with a disposal programme drawn up at a high level in the organization. In this way, an archives repository within the firm can form an important adjunct and auxiliary to the firm's record-system, and where firms have records officers or records managers, as an increasing number do have, it would seem most natural that control of such an archives repository within the firm should be the direct responsibility of these executives.

In the case of semi-public bodies (the University of Sydney may be cited as an example of this), the keeping of old records is absolutely essential. Such bodies as universities (a particularly good example of this) go very much by precedent, having their own "legal systems" based on parliamentary statutes and a body of by-laws. Such bodies as universities have also a peculiar relationship with governments, which necessitates the availability of original documentary material on frequent occasions, and consequently these bodies have no choice in the matter of deposit or retention, but must necessarily opt for the latter.

Taking the case of a business firm of average size, however, the reasons for retention are many. First, there is the matter of policy. To an increasing extent business firms are looking back on their past to determine the broad lines of policy which should be followed. It is very necessary, of course, for a business firm to move with the times and to be in line with contemporary trends, but on the broad line of company policy the lessons of the past can often provide useful guidance.

Next, there is the matter of advertising. More and more old-established firms have taken the line in recent years of stressing their age, stability and respectability by referring to their past and to the parts their concerns have played in the development of the nation. Possession of old records which can be drawn upon for material of this kind, not only illustrative but documentary, is a great advantage. Then again, and even more important, there are the legal matters of patents and proofs. Documentary evidence of this kind is still occasionally essential in the case of disputes and some firms have always shown a praiseworthy care in this respect, taking great trouble to maintain the original documents of proof and patent.

The way in which a firm should go about organizing an accumulation of old records, should a retention policy be decided upon, can be summarily outlined as follows:—The first need is to assemble the material in one place. Very often in the course of surveys over the last ten years—and these have mounted to several hundreds in number—it has been found that old records of various types and of varying quality have been scattered through the premises of a business firm

In some cases deposits of material have been found hundreds of miles apart in different premises and outlying branches of firms, but even within the average company head office there is a great deal of dispersal. The company secretary's office or strong room is the most obvious place to seek for old material, but very often important series of records have been found, in addition, in the offices of the accountant and other company officers, as well as lodged away in basements, vaults, lofts, cellars, cupboards and other places. The first need is to assemble such scattered material in one place where its extent and nature can be properly gauged. At this stage of the operation, it is often useful to check for material which has been removed altogether from the company premises by company officers on retirement or as "souvenirs". In the past 30 or 40 years, with frequent "clear-outs" and salvage drives, company officers have often removed items of interest which would otherwise have been destroyed. In this way, valuable material has often been saved, and if a firm has made a decision to preserve its records properly, an attempt should be made to retrieve such material and lodge it with the other records.

The next step is to centralize and personalize responsibility for the old records in some person of real authority within the company. There is much less possibility of good results in the gathering in and organization of records if the officer who is responsible for them lacks the grading to perform this task efficiently. The officer responsible for the records should have sufficient status to make an approach on the highest level to departments within the firm with a view to securing old material held by them. If the archivist or records officer lacks status, he will simply be regarded as a nuisance, and his access to some types of old records which may be deemed as "confidential" will be barred. In the past, much damage has been done by the delegation of the work of clearing out old records to junior members of office staffs who have been totally unaware of the significance of the material which too often has been destroyed by them. This is also an argument for the establishment of an archivist or records officer on a relatively high grading because the work can only be done suitably and competently by one who has some understanding of the way in which the firm works, and also of its background and development.

Having assembled the records and clarified the position of the officer responsible for them, the next step is to list, classify and describe the material so that it will be ready for easy consultation, and so that the ultimate task of storing it in suitable conditions can be carried out. It is here that we come to the key operation to the whole procedure—that of selection for preservation. What is to be kept and what is to

be discarded ? In its publications on this subject, the Business Archives Council of Australia has listed certain types of material which should be preserved at all costs. The chief categories of records of this kind are :—

1. Legal documents (indentures of partnership, deeds, agreements, patents, titles, etc.).
2. Minute books (of directors' meetings, special committees, etc., with supporting documents such as reports and letters).
3. Correspondence and letter-books.
4. Inter-departmental memoranda relating to important matters.
5. Accounting records (ledgers, cash-books, balance-sheets, cost accounts, estimates).
6. Annual reports, whether manuscript (as was often the case in early nineteenth century practice) or printed.
7. Sales records, price-lists, catalogues, records relating to advertising.
8. Drawings, plans, specifications, production schedules, laboratory records, etc.
9. Records relating to personnel (wages books, record-sheets, piece-rate books, bonus records, information about welfare facilities and working conditions).
10. Statistics.
11. Shipping records (bills of lading, ships' manifests and articles, log-books).
12. Personal papers relating to the founders or heads of the firm (diaries, journals, correspondence, memoranda and drafts).
13. Records relating to earlier enterprises which have had some connection with the firm or its personnel. (Material of this kind is often of the utmost importance to the firm and historically significant.)
14. Stock-books and stud-books and records of rations and payments. (Such records are often found among the pastoral and sheep and cattle station records which are found in Australia.)

As far as other material is concerned, the criteria or standards of judgment for selection that the Business Archives Council of Australia has worked out may be summed up as follows :—Records that are unique in that they contain material not contained elsewhere should always be preserved. This standard of judgment must, of course, be tempered with realism, in that there are great masses of purely formal

records which contain material which is "unique", but which very often simply cannot be preserved because the material is "typical" or "normal" in that it shows only the everyday working of the firm. For instance, a great mass of many thousands of invoices might be the only record of individual transactions. It may be out of the question to preserve this great quantity of material. At the same time, it is most unlikely that historians of the future will be much interested in individual transactions of this normal type. In such a case as this, the technique of "sampling" is the best one to adopt. From such a mass of records, a month's invoices from each period of five years might well be taken out. The consistency with which the sampling is made will give a validity to the material retained as a "true sample", which will be of use to the research worker of the future or to officers of the firm concerned who might wish to look back on a typical month's transactions of a past period. In this way the retention of great masses of purely formal and rather insignificant material can often be avoided.

With regard to the arrangement of the records—the order in which they are going to be stored and the order in which they are going to be listed in the final inventories of material,—a principle must be worked out. In most cases, except where confusion of the records has made it almost impossible to sort out the material according to its source within the organization which has created it, the most effective principle to be followed in arranging material is that of provenance, which can be applied to business records in the same way as to government records. In this way, all accounting material will be kept separate. All records created within the office of the company's secretary will likewise be kept separate, and so on. Within such groups there will be various series. For instance, within the group of records created in the office of the company's secretary, there will be a series of minute books of the company, a series, possibly, of old letter books and of files of correspondence and other material. Within the groups and the series, a chronological arrangement is generally recommended. A purely chronological arrangement of all records regardless of type and source is sometimes followed, and quite often in the past the Business Archives Council has come across examples of this. At some past date, a firm has decided to organize its records and has gathered them together in one place and then proceeded to list the material item by item regardless of type and source. This, of course, makes the material very difficult to consult and almost impossible to use with profit. Invariably, the Business Archives Council has advised against it.

In this matter of arranging and listing records according to groups, the need on the part of the officer concerned for some understanding of how the firm has worked and developed in the past is manifest. Knowledge of how a certain group of records has originated, of how a department of the firm came into being as an off-shoot of another department, of how a certain group of reports, for instance, was used in conjunction with accounting records, can be of the greatest value. The relationship between the various series and groups is often an intricate one, and knowledge of that relationship can be vital in arranging, classifying and describing the material. The Council has recommended the following procedure in listing :—

“When records are being checked over for the first time, before the final arrangement has been decided upon, a rough inventory should be drawn up containing details of the subject and date of each item, for example :—

Minute Book, 1873-1883, or

Box of Correspondence from Brisbane Branch, 1882-1890.

This rough inventory will make arrangement much easier, and on it the important detailed final inventory can be based.

“*Description: The Final Inventory.*—In the inventorying of records after their arrangement has been decided on, great care should be taken in ensuring accuracy. It is necessary to be specific and, at the same time, concise. The inventory should be more than a list—it should be a guide to the firm’s records, precisely detailed, easy to consult, and understandable at a glance.

“The inventory should supply the following information about each record :—

1. Quantity (whether a single item or a number or series of items).
2. Physical description (book, bundle or correspondence, agreement, etc.).
3. Content or subject, with parties concerned.
4. Any unusual or important feature.¹
5. Date.”

Care should be taken to find out the exact contents of records. Quite often books were used from the back for some purpose different from that specified on their labels or for which they were begun. Minute books labelled as such may have been used as minute books only in part, and from the back as letter books or account books. Often a

¹ “Unusual or important feature”—This is necessarily difficult to define, but it comprises any material vitally important to the origin or development of the company and its activities, and any material of national or general historic or economic interest.

record of this kind may contain transactions of more than one concern—a previous business or subsidiary organization. If such cases occur, the dual nature of the books should be indicated in the inventory.

Similarly, bundles or boxes of correspondence should be checked through carefully to find if they contain other material. Important legal documents, drafts and memoranda are sometimes found among such material. Where this occurs, the presence of such items should be noted in the inventory. They should not be removed from the material they are found with, as the contents may not be understandable if removed from their context. The inventory entry for such an item would be :

Bundle of 38 letters from agents in Victoria, relating to grain purchases, 1880-1890, with six reports on quality of grain, 1888 and two draft agreements for shipments with the Bass Strait Steamship Company, 1888 and 1889, enclosed.

With correspondence it is seldom feasible, of course, to list each item separately, as with minute books, ledgers, and important legal documents. Important letters should, however, be noted in the inventory. Correspondence is usually found grouped in some way, often chronologically, and sometimes according to the subject or sender. Such arrangement should always be left intact, though disordered masses of correspondence should be sorted and given some logical arrangement.

Letter books containing “flimsy” copies of outgoing correspondence are often very difficult to date because only the last figure or two of the date year may be shown. Some research in the minute books or ledgers can usually give the exact date of such books. Occasionally rough minute books or letter books are found. These are not mere duplicates, and should not be discarded because fair copies exist. Rough minute and letter books often contain much interesting and revealing material which is absent in the fair versions, and they should always be listed in full and specific detail.

If a fuller system of inventory is required, a card index of subjects—places and names—with reference numbers corresponding to the arrangement and inventory numbers will make a collection of records even more valuable for consultation. The ideal, of course, is to have the whole body of records fully indexed in this way—a large task in days when staff is scarce—yet the efficient records officer or archivist will attempt it, for its benefits are manifest.

A simple but specific inventory of the kind outlined above at least enables the firm to know what records exist, how they are arranged, and what kind of information they contain, and this detailed knowledge

of the company's archives can be valuable not only to the historian, but also the executives of the company present and future.

Storage methods and preservation techniques.—The last thirty years have seen many new developments in the field of records storage. Architectural techniques and shelving methods have been revolutionized, and in Sydney and Melbourne, as in London and New York, many large concerns like banks have gone so far as to establish records repositories designed and maintained specifically for that purpose and incorporating many of the latest developments, such as mobile shelving and air-conditioning.

In the case of the medium-sized or small firm, such developments are out of the question, but even a small firm can establish a record room which will be well suited to the purpose, and in which material can be stored and consulted cheaply and efficiently. In the past, one of the most common errors has been the storage of records in basements or cellars. In the Australian eastern coastal belt, with its heavy rainfall, this policy has often led to disaster because basements have rapidly become flooded owing to inadequate drainage, and the surveys of the Business Archives Council have revealed that several very important deposits of records have been destroyed in this way in the city of Sydney within living memory. Basements should be avoided and, wherever possible, records should be stored well above ground level.

Humidity is one of the chief problems facing the keeper of records in the Australian eastern coastal belt. In times of rain and higher temperatures, a high degree of humidity can quickly set up fungus growths among books and papers. This can be avoided by careful and regular airing of books and papers. Damp is the chief enemy of records in this part of Australia and the high degree of humidity, combined with the sulphuric content of the air found where great numbers of internal combustion engines are in use, can be most deleterious. Airing is all very well, but it requires time, patience and careful handling of material. By far the best solution of the problem is the installation of de-humidifying machinery. De-humidifiers are not expensive. A very effective model until recently in use in the University of Sydney was constructed by using an old refrigerator motor. Modern apparatus of this kind is surprisingly inexpensive and can be very easily installed. As far as loose papers are concerned, the best plan is to box them in strongly made archives boxes, preferably with flap-over lids so as to obviate dust. Loose papers quickly attract damp and dust and are difficult to handle, even when arranged in tight bundles. Boxing can make them safer, cleaner and easier to store and consult. In this

connection, an earlier point made about the poor quality of much of the paper used for modern record purposes can be raised again. Poor quality papers suffer particularly from damp and dust, and a series of experiments which have been conducted at the University of Sydney in the last few years, have shown that the eastern Australian climate has an extremely bad effect on such qualities of papers if they are exposed to dust and to any considerable degree of damp. The polluted air of modern cities has especially bad effects on such material. The better quality milled papers and hand-made papers of the nineteenth century have a higher degree of resistance, but even they will suffer badly if exposed to damp or dust. The strong leather bindings typical of the nineteenth century and of the early part of this century also suffer very badly from humidity, and in many cases the Council has found deposits of well-bound records in a state of rot and disintegration due to lack of airing, and to storage in damp places. The fact that many concerns which require printed material especially for purposes of record—newspapers are an example—are having current issues microfilmed is a very telling indication of the poor quality of much of the paper used in printing today.

A central register of business archives.—In both Britain and Australia there has been considerable progress in forming central register of business archives. At the Australian National University, and in the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney (where the two State branches of the Business Archives Council have their headquarters), the results of surveys are recorded with inventories of the records held by firms which have chosen to retain their archives, as well as more detailed inventories of records which have been lodged in the repositories within these universities. The negative results of inquiries and surveys, i.e., the non-existence of records, is also recorded, and knowledge that the records of a particular firm no longer exist can often save scholars and researchers a great deal of time that would otherwise be taken up in contacting firms and attempting to survey their records. Another advantage of the central register is that it often shows that the records relating to a firm can contain information about other companies which may have no extant records, or which may long ago have gone out of existence. It is sometimes possible to effect a partial "reconstruction" of the history of a firm from the records of other companies and from newspaper and official archival sources.

Liaison with the business world.—One of the most difficult problems encountered by archivists and historians who are concerned about the destruction of business records and are aware of the need for the preservation of valuable material, is the difficulty of getting the average

businessman to take an interest in the old books and papers which he knows, often vaguely, are stored away in his offices and premises. Fortunately, in Australia, the last decade has seen many firms reaching their centenary, with the result that some have decided to produce company histories to mark the occasion. This has sometimes led to professional historians being brought in to prepare the history of the firm, and a great deal of valuable material has been brought to light in this way. Gradually, businessmen have come to see that what they have long regarded as useless old records have historical importance and are even of genuine public interest.

Fortunately, too, there is always a minority of business leaders who have a real interest in the past for its own sake, or a pride in the traditions of the firms which they and their ancestors have helped to build up over the years. In those countries where most has been done to preserve this part of the national archival heritage, cooperation between businessmen on one side, and archivists and historians on the other has been the key factor in ensuring progress. Businessmen, and businessmen alone, can provide the contacts that are so necessary if free access to records is to be obtained from their owners, and it is only through such access that careful surveys can be made. This is the great merit of such bodies as the Business Archives Councils in England, Scotland and Australia. When the time comes for large-scale systematic surveys of business records in India, experience in these countries would seem to indicate that the formation of a body along the lines of a Business Archives Council, with businessmen and industrialists among its members, would be a most valuable preliminary. The records of the older Indian mercantile houses alone must include extremely valuable material, and as the publication of part of the papers of Robert Campbell, the first Sydney merchant, has recently shown², a great deal of light may be thrown on the whole pattern of trade in "Austral-Asia" in the early nineteenth century by a few significant documents.

Contact with business firms, as well as contact at a high level, with the heads of the firms concerned, is almost invariably the necessary prerequisite to effective surveys, and to persuading the firms to seek out, organize and preserve their records. Experience has proved repeatedly that attempts to survey records or to compile information about them by sending out circulars, is fruitless. Here, as in all other types of research, there is no substitute for field-work carried out on the spot with the help and full cooperation of those in authority.

²See C. E. T. Newman, *The Spirit of Wharf House*, Sydney, 1962.

THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY AND ITS INDIAN MATERIAL

D. H. SIMPSON

THE Royal Commonwealth Society was founded as the Colonial Society in 1868, and throughout the changes which have been reflected in the alteration of its name to Royal Colonial Institute, to Royal Empire Society, and in 1957 to its present title, it has had as a major aim the provision of information on the Commonwealth and its members. It is a private learned society, committed to no political party or propaganda purpose.

The basis of its work as a learned society has, since its early days, been the Library, now a collection numbering some 350,000 items and a recognized centre for information and research on Commonwealth topics. Its scope includes all countries of the Commonwealth, past and present, as well as some other territories of related interest. The aim has been to provide at least a representative collection on such topics as art, literature, music, natural history, and education as well as on the more obvious historical, geographical and political subjects.

The printed material on India is extensive, and contains some 5,000 bound books; hundreds of pamphlets, including two substantial special collections, 31 volumes from the Oriental Club and 22 volumes gathered by J. B. and Eardley Norton; and a large number of official publications issued in the United Kingdom and India, including the Indian Debates, which are still currently received. Files of nearly 150 relevant periodicals, current and non-current, are held, and separate articles extensively catalogued. Printed archival publications include the Records of Fort St. George (297 volumes), the Nagpur Residency Records, the Indian Records Series, the Bombay Records Series, Poona Residency Correspondence, the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings, the published records of the East India Company, and Bengal District Records.

A notable special collection is that given by H. M. Queen Mary in 1950, consisting of copies of books on India and numerous albums compiled or presented on her two visits to India in 1905-06 and 1911-12. These albums contain some magnificent photographs of scenery and architecture; and fourteen original paintings of Indian female costumes by M. F. Pithawala are included in an illuminated address presented in Bombay in 1905. The collection is historically interesting as an unique record of a now past phase in Anglo-Indian relations.

The Library's *Subject Catalogue* was published from 1930 to 1937, and Volume IV, still in print, has 380 pages devoted to material on India.

and much has of course been added since. The *Biography Catalogue* (1961) has entries for nearly 1,000 individuals connected with India, and over 100 relevant works of collective biography.

The Society's archives, in the strict sense, do not contain a great deal of significance on India, perhaps because the existence of other learned societies in London more specifically concerned with the subject has lessened the emphasis on the sub-continent in the Society's proceedings; but the Library's manuscript collection has some items of Indian interest, as well as material relating to other parts of Asia. These include:—

1. *Letters of Robert Needham Cust*.—R. N. Cust (1821-1909) joined the Indian Civil Service in 1843 and served on the North-West frontier, at Benares, in Bundelkhand, and particularly in the Punjab, on which he made a detailed report in 1849-51. He retired in 1867 and spent the rest of his life in linguistic and philanthropic work. His letters to his parents and other members of his family cover the years 1828-66, and are preserved in three volumes consisting of nearly 500 pages. There is much purely personal material, but also many comments on India as he saw it.

2. *Journal of a voyage from England to India*.—This 42 page manuscript diary was kept on the *Frances Anne* between March and August 1830 by Campbell Mackinnon (1806-1871), who served with distinction in the Indian Medical Service, Bengal, from 1830 until his retirement in 1862.

3. *Journal of a voyage from Britain to India, 1797-1798*.—This is the typescript copy of an original journal kept by Anthony MacTier on board the *Surat Castle* bound for Bombay. (32 typed pages).

4. *Logbook of the voyage of the Houghton, 1786-1788*.—The ship sailed to the Cape of Good Hope, thence to Madras, which she reached in June 1787; the voyage continued to Penang, China, and home via St. Helena.

5. *Memorandum book of Nathaniel Smith*.—Smith entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1814 and retired in 1842 as Collector of Rangpur. This substantial folio volume contains manuscript extracts in various hands from local records, notes of cases, copies of letters, drafts, etc., chiefly belonging to the period 1829-41, and relating to administrative and financial matters.

6. *Reminiscences of missionary work by Worthington Jukes*.—The Rev. Worthington Jukes (1849-1937) was a missionary in Amritsar from 1872 to 1873 and in Peshawar from 1873 to 1890, and his own typed copy of his (apparently unpublished) memoirs has many photographs and other items inserted. It was written in 1925 and covers 161 pages.

Three original panoramic illustrations are also of some interest :—

1. *The Sea prospect of Fort St. George*.—This is 12½ inches by 5 feet. It is undated, but probably belongs to the mid-18th century.

2. *Panorama of Bombay, c. 1840*.—This was painted by Thomas Wingate from the top of Sir Jamsetji Jijibhoy's house. It is 14 inches by 18 feet.

3. *Panorama of Simla and surrounding area*.—This is 21 inches by 12 feet 6 inches and probably belonging to the early 20th century.

The Library has a collection of photographs, and some of those of India date back to the 1860s. Later material includes scenes during the construction of the Northern Bengal State Railway, and the original photographs used in Montague Massey's *Recollections of Calcutta*, 1918. The late Sir Arthur Knapp presented his own collection of photographs of all known portraits of Warren Hastings.

Other facets of the Library's work are talks on special aspects of its stock, and regular exhibitions. In 1961 the Library was used for an exhibition celebrating the centenary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, organized by the Society in cooperation with the Royal Society of Arts, the Royal India, Pakistan and Ceylon Society and the East India Association. In April 1964 it was used for a Shakespeare quater-centenary exhibition, "Shakespeare and the Commonwealth", which had a special section of translations, including a number from India.

The Library is available to all serious students of the subjects within its scope on application to the Librarian, and the presence of research workers from all over the Commonwealth is a valued sign that the Society is still carrying out the declared aim of its Charter "to promote the increase and spread of knowledge respecting the peoples and countries of the Commonwealth."

man just out from Scotland, who later became one of the most capable officers of the Trigonometrical Survey.

The most promising of the local recruits was Radhanath Sickdhar, appointed on 20 December 1831, aged 18, whom Everest later declared to have been "the ablest pupil that the Hindoo College has yet produced". He was son of Tituram Sikdar, Brahman, of Sikdarpāra, Jorasanko, District Hooghly, which lies on the right bank of the river. He was educated in Calcutta, first at the school of Feringhee Kamal Bose at 48, Chitpur Road, and from 1824 at the Hindu College which was then under Anglo-Indian management. He learnt English under Henry Louis de Rozario and Dr. Millis, and mathematics under Dr. John Tytler.

He joined the Survey in time to have assisted, or at any rate looked on, at the measurement of the base-line between the two great towers on the Barrackpore Road, that was commenced on 8 December 1831 and completed six weeks later.

During the rains of 1832 the young probationers were trained in computations and outdoor survey by De Penning and Olliver, and at the end of his six months probation Everest had Radhanath especially appointed Sub-Assistant Surveyor on Rs. 117 a month, and sent him out on field service with the two young Engineer officers, Andrew Waugh and Thomas Renny. They left Calcutta on 15 October and marched up the Grand Trunk Road till they turned south through Chunar and visited the far-famed Amarkantak, keeping a survey of their route. They then travelled via Jubbulpore to join Rossenrode early in April some eighty miles south of Gwalior, having travelled about a thousand miles in nearly six months. Radhanath had a good introduction to a surveyor's life on the march, and gained some knowledge of survey by perambulator and theodolite.

Rossenrode was selecting stations and laying out the principal triangles for the Great Arc from the neighbourhood of Sironj where Everest had left it in 1825, and by September had brought the line just short of the northern boundary of Gwalior where they were all stopped by heavy rain. Everest had not at that time laid down any rules as to closing field work for a regular recess season. Rossenrode was a master of the principles and art of laying out a series of triangles, and the two young officers had not to go and do likewise on independent work of their own. Radhanath was learning all the time.

Waugh Renny then spent several weeks at Agra organizing their parties for the work of the coming season, but they agreed that Radhanath was too inexperienced to be of much service to officers who were themselves beginners. They reported that they had found

RADHANATH SICKDHAR¹ AND THE GREAT TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY—A GLEANING FROM UNPUBLISHED RECORDS

R. H. PHILLIMORE

IN October 1830, after five years absence in England, Captain George Everest returned to India, completely restored to health, to take up duty as Surveyor General of India in addition to his old duties with the Great Trigonometrical Survey to which he was still to give his first attention.

He was to give priority to the extension of his Great Arc of triangles from Central India, where he had left it in 1825, to the Himalaya mountains, and to the start of lesser triangles down the Ganges valley towards Calcutta. For this he had to raise six new field parties, with headquarter administrative offices and the necessary staff of all grades.

He found four of the assistants, whom he had left in 1825, still serving. Joseph Olliver, aged 45, and William Rossenrode, 38, had both served with Lambton, and were to do good work during the coming years on the laying out of stations and triangles of the Great Arc. Of the two younger men, John Peyton, aged 26, was already a valuable computer and, by the time Everest left India, had become a first class triangulator.

An essential part of the Survey would be the headquarter computing office which Everest planned to keep at Calcutta whilst he himself was away up country, working in the field and recuperating in the hills. There was a mass of arrears awaiting such an office left over from Everest's early work on the Great Arc, and from Olliver's triangulation connecting Central India to the base-line at Calcutta.

A capable and experienced head computer was essential, and Everest was fortunate to obtain the services of Joshua de Penning who had worked with Lambton from 1800, and had resigned for family reasons after that great man's death. De Penning was 47 years old when he took up duty as Chief Computer in Calcutta in 1831, and was still in charge when he died on 30 March 1845.

Eight Bengali students were recruited locally, drawing Rs. 30 a month whilst on probation for six months and Rs. 40 thereafter. De Penning had occasional help from Vincent Rees, of Switzerland, who had held charge of the Survey Observatory from 1825. During leave to Europe, 1831-33, Rees's place was taken by George Logan, a young

¹ Spelling taken from his autograph.



Radhanath Sickdhar

Chief Computer.

(Radhanath Sickdhar's portrait bearing his autograph reproduced from the *Historical Records of the Survey of India*, Vol. V, by the courtesy of the Surveyor General of India.)

him "obedient and sober,....but....whilst he possesses excellent principles and an active mind,....he is so young and unformed in character that the constant stimulus of praise and success are required to secure attention.....He is readily daunted by difficulties.....His character will gradually form. As to his intelligence, readiness, and general capacity, he is very intelligent, quick and zealous, and—when successful or excited by praise—regardless of personal labour and inconvenience."

Radhanath now joined Everest in Mussoorie and took the field with him in November 1833 to assist in the all-important task of tracing the line of the Great Arc northwards from Agra, selecting stations from 20 to 30 miles apart with good view from one to the other. This was especially difficult across the tree-covered plains approaching Delhi and northwards of the Jamuna where the atmosphere was thick with dust and smoke. Scaffoldings were required for observer, instrument, and for the showing of blue lights from one station to another. Everest was a difficult man to work for: hot and impatient, and unsparing of rebuke. But Radhanath was bright and intelligent and useful in recording observations and doing whatever was wanted.

He was allowed his turn at one of the microscopes at the measurement of the Dehra Dun base-line during the next cold weather, and took a more important share at Sironj three years later. During the next five years he steadily advanced in winning Everest's confidence, both in the field work and the computations of the Great Arc.

In March 1835 the Calcutta computers made united petition for increase of salary. Forty rupees a month was not particularly generous. Everest could not help and his account of Radhanath's work would have been of little comfort to them, for he was now drawing Rs. 140 as 2nd Class Sub-Assistant plus one-third as up-country allowance. "Your fellow-collegian Radhanath", he writes, "is high in favour with everybody, and universally beloved in the Great Trigonometrical Survey. You will not know him for the same person,....for he is no longer a puny stripling, but a hardy energetic young man, ready to undergo any fatigue, and acquire a practical knowledge of all parts of his profession.....There are few of my instruments which he cannot manage, and none of my computations of which he is not thorough master."

About the same time he tells Government that Radhanath was keeping up his mathematical studies and that his outdoor survey life had made him "hale, active, energetic and enterprising. His knowledge of English is fundamental, and his pronunciation free from vicious accent;....it would require a delicate ear to detect any foreignness. He has the wisdom to distinguish the solid worth of the British

character from the weeds and lichens which disfigure it and, carefully avoiding our vices and absurdities, has confined himself to closely imitating our regard for truth, integrity, and manly virtue."

He was frequently noticed for professional work in the field—on one occasion for running a 30 mile ray-trace with a closing error of only six seconds, and on another for a rapid perambulator traverse of the return journey through Bharatpur. He writes: "Although my camp proceeded by regular stages and only halted two days at Alwar and one at Tijara, the surveying party kept pace....throughout the journey.The discrepancies....are not larger than perambulators are usually liable to, and we have the means of correcting them."

Three years later the inevitable happened. Seven of the eight Calcutta computers, including the senior drawing Rs. 100 as Head Computer, resigned in a body without giving any previous notice, leaving to take up newly established posts as Deputy Collectors in the Revenue Department. As Everest remarked: "We cannot expect young men to work in my office for the fun of the thing at 40 rupees a month when they can get Rs. 300 elsewhere." New recruits were entertained, only one of the old lot stayed on being promoted to the Rs. 100 post, and Radhanath's brother, Srinath Sikdar, the best of new recruits, was fitted in with salary of Rs. 60.

But Radhanath himself had caught the infection and asked leave to accept a post as "teacher to a public institution". Everest was much distressed and begged Government to grant him a substantial increase of salary that would keep him in the Department. He could not speak too highly of him. "In his mathematical attainments there are few in India....who can at all compete with him, and....even in Europe these attainments would rank very high. As a computer he is quite indefatigable, and....thoroughly skilful in the application of the various formulae.....These qualifications....would be thrown away upon [the post]....which he now seeks.....He is clear-headed, shrewd, and intelligent, and possesses....activity of body and mind.....Computers comparable to Radhanath cannot be hired in England at a less price than a guinea per diem.....Trained up as he has been from boyhood under my own eye, he would be the cheapest instrument that Government could employ in a task of this kind. He has become, as it were, my right arm in all matters connected with computation and registry of data, and the loss of his services at this critical moment would be one of the most severe privations that could be inflicted on me."

Government accepted the recommendation and sanctioned an increment of Rs. 100 a month which brought Radhanath's salary up to Rs. 273

as 1st Class Sub-Assistant, with up-country allowance extra. At the same time they issued a stiff rebuke to the practice of one department trying to tempt away members of another.

Living as he was amongst British surveyors away from kith and kin, it was not long before Radhanath discarded the strict rules of his early upbringing and gradually became thoroughly European in outlook. "When I started for the Himalayas", he writes, "I took with me a Brahman cook who died three years after. Up to this time I was a rigid Hindu, but after 15 days being my own cook I began to take English food. Colonel Everest was at first dissatisfied, but afterwards admitted me to his own table." Waugh notes in later years that he had become "in reality thoroughly Europeanized, being of opinion that he could never succeed as a sub-assistant unless he surrendered his caste and prejudices".

In July 1840 Radhanath went down to Meerut to meet his father who was on pilgrimage to Badrinath, and took with him an invitation from Everest to break the journey and pay a visit to the Park in Mussoorie: "Perhaps you will yet be induced to come.... The holy Badrinath.... is visible from my house in the hills together with the whole range of the mighty Himalaya." The visit, however, could not be made.

By 1843 Everest's great task was completed; he had brought his triangles to the mountains and had spent the last two years toiling at computations, and had achieved results that were to stand the challenge of geodesists the world over. His computers still had several weeks work to get the great volumes ready for the master's signature, but his resignation had been submitted and his passage booked. Work was closed down at the Park, the mountain home of eleven summers, on Saturday, 16 September. The office moved to Dehra Dun during the week-end, and then on to the fleet of boats at Garhmuktesar. Computations were kept going all day throughout the six weeks journey and every evening Radhanath and his men tied up for the night. "After the hour of 5 p.m. the Surveyor General..... will be the foremost to draw ashore and select the landing place for the evening.... The office and guard boats.... are always to keep as near the Surveyor General's boats as circumstances will admit."

The work was successfully finished after reaching Calcutta, and the volumes signed and sent off to the India House before the great man sailed on 16 December.

Radhanath was now to work for a new Surveyor General, Andrew Waugh. In October 1844 he moved up with the field office to Allahabad, another boat journey, this time nearly seven weeks against the current. He was in charge of a small computing section that included his brother

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Surveyor Genl's Office
Calcutta, 19th July 1861.

N^o 26

Lieut. Colt. A. S. Waugh
Surveyor General of India
Dehra Doon.

Sir,

N^o 26

In continuation of my letter of the 16th Calcutta
I have the honor to report, that I have this day taken in hand
the reduction by the method of Minimum Squares, the seven
Quadrilaterals formed on, and about the survey of the
These quadrilaterals form the most complicated
calculated figure that occurs in the Trigonometrical Survey, and
when solved, they would, I think, furnish sufficient ground
whereon to base your opinion, as to the advisability of introducing
the new method of polygonal reduction into general use in
the Survey Department.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedt Servt
Ramesh Chandra
Chief Computer

Explanation

41285

Table III revised.—Table III was originally computed upon the assumption that a small portion of the earth's surface may be taken as spherical with a radius equal to the normal to the Axis Minor under the given parallel. In the revised Table, the same assumption as to the sphericity of a small portion of the earth's surface is made but its radius is altered to a mean between the normal above mentioned and the radius of curvature for the meridian.

The revised Table is to be made use of in the same way as the original Table.

Appendix to Table IV.—In the explanation of Table IV, the formula for computing the contained arc between two stations is given as follows.

$$C'' = C \times \frac{\cos \phi}{V}$$

As however is only the first term of the formula and the other term is

$$C'' \times \frac{(V-r)}{r} \cos^2 A$$

in which A stands for the azimuth of the given geodesic line.

These two terms being computed, the value of the contained arc will stand as follows.

$$K'' = C'' + C'' \times \frac{(V-r)}{r} \cos^2 A$$

It is with the view of deducing the second term that the Appendix to Table IV is given by the aid of which the correct deduction may be made in this way. To twice the log cosine of the azimuth of the given geodesic line add the $\log C''$ deduced as directed before and the tabular $\log$; the natural number answering to the sum is a correction always additive to C'' . In most practical purposes it will be sufficient to take out the azimuth of the given geodesic line from a plane in which the meridians & parallels are drawn.

Compared by

Srinath Sicken

Radhanath Sicken

Radhanath Sicken

Chief Computer

Srinath and three juniors. De Penning who stayed on at Calcutta with Vincent Rees, was now a sick man and "as deaf as an adder", and on his death on 30 March 1845 Radhanath succeeded as Chief Computer but held on up-country.

In December 1846 the Surveyor General went on tour to inspect the site for the Sonakhoda base-line, and spent most of the next year in Darjeeling, and took observations to the snow peaks before taking charge of the base-line measurement. He took his Registrar, George Webb, with him, and left Radhanath in charge of the whole field office which had already been moved down river to Digha Ghat, about five miles from Dinapore.

In July 1847 Radhanath took a month's leave to Calcutta, where he started the computers on a second check of the Great Arc computations. After his return he was extremely hurt by orders to hand over charge to the Registrar who was being sent down from Darjeeling on purpose to conduct the field office from Digha Ghat to Dehra Dun. He was rather hasty to send in his resignation on this account, but withdrew it on Waugh's strong remonstrance. In the meantime he and his small section travelled up with Webb, leaving Digha on 8 December to halt a week at Allahabad and reach Garhmuktesar on 25 March. They then marched by road to reach Dehra Dun on 9 April and settle into the old *daftarkhana* of Everest's days on the Old Survey Road.

Waugh himself reached Dehra Dun on 3 May, having taken three months on the march up from Purnea after measurement of the base-line. These lengthy journeys by road or river were a feature of the survey operations of those days. Metalled roads, motor cars, and railways were then unknown. The earliest railway open to traffic was the section Howrah to Raniganj in 1855.

At the end of 1848 the Surveyor General decided to concentrate the computing office at Calcutta under Radhanath, who would thus exercise his full and proper responsibilities as Chief Computer. The four computers down there had been making duplicate copies of 15 and 20 year old computations, and comparing yet again the angle books of the Great Arc work of 1835 to 1841, besides assisting Rees in the Observatory. One of them had resigned in February and the section was thrown out of balance and, wrote the Surveyor General, "the labours of those in Calcutta had declined in consequence of the want of adequate supervision. . . . A concentration of the entire computing office is urgently necessary."

Radhanath and his section then made yet another river journey, their fifth in the six years. They left Dehra Dun at the end of January 1849, took boat on the Ganges on 12 February, and reached Calcutta

on 2 May. The journey was delayed by contrary winds; "daily progress was always very small. On many occasions.....the boats, even with the aid of *goons*, or tracking ropes, could not make head against them.....We left the channel of the Ganges and entered that of the Bhagirathi on the 13th April...The whole voyage down the Bhagirathi was performed with the aid of the *goons*."

The Surveyor General commended Radhanath to his Deputy, Henry Thuillier, who was in charge of all survey offices at Calcutta: "Every opportunity should be afforded him for the efficient performance of his work, and as he will now for the first time have the whole of his office under his personal control, the entire responsibility of details will devolve upon him....It will be necessary for me to maintain a direct correspondence with the Chief Computer." Thuillier allotted them the three rooms that De Penning had been allowed, and "found in Baboo Radhanath Sickdhar a.....willingness to accommodate which is most pleasing." Towards the end of the year the offices were all moved to 35/37, Park Street, the great corner house where Blacker had established the Observatory in 1825, and here Radhanath made his living quarters for several years, living on his work.

The work of the computing office now covered final values for the Great Arc and for each one of the several chains of triangles completed between Delhi and Calcutta, with preparation of two manuscript copies of each, one for the Surveyor General's field office, and one for India House in London. An exception was made for the great North-East longitudinal chain between Dehra Dun and Sonakhoda base-lines that was not completed till 1851. This was the work of no fewer than six surveyors and included the observations to the snow peaks. The computations of this series were entrusted to a small section of surveyors working at Dehra Dun under Waugh's own eye, and never came under Radhanath's direction.

The Calcutta computers, writes Radhanath, went right through all the details of computation sent in by each field surveyor "and arranged and digested the results; also, when required, verified these results by independent processes.....Laborious calculations.....and continued watchfulness to guard against errors...were both very great." As Chief Computer his own particular task was the preparation of a set of Tables to be used on departmental computations, introducing all recent changes, including many of his own suggestion. These Tables were completed and printed by 1851, and five years later it was recorded that "although the Tables have been in constant use for the last four or five years not a single mistake has been discovered, either in the computation or the printing."

Another great service was the assistance he gave in the preparation of the departmental *Manual of Surveying* of which the first edition was published in 1851. It was compiled by Henry Thuillier and Ralph Smyth, both revenue surveyors, and Thuillier paid special tribute to Radhanath's "intimate acquaintance and knowledge of scientific subjects generally.... Chapters 15 and 17 to 21 inclusive, and 26 of part III, and the whole of part V, are entirely his own. It would be difficult for the compilers to express with sufficient force the obligation they thus feel, not only for the portion which they thus publicly acknowledge, but for the advice so generously afforded on all subjects connected with his own department."

A second edition followed in 1856, and a third with considerable additions was issued in 1875. Some comment was passed at the omission from this last of all reference to Radhanath.

In 1853 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Though the computations of the snow peaks, including Mount Everest, were carried out under Hennessey at Dehra Dun, the Surveyor General made constant reference to the Chief Computer regarding special formulae and adjustments that had to be allowed when computing out these observations to provide for such great distances and the impossibility of reverse observations.

On his transfer to Calcutta in 1849 Radhanath lost the up-country increment on his salary of Chief Computer, Rs. 400, and in 1852 Waugh strongly supported his petition for a special rise, in which he pointed out his work on the new Tables and his special studies of the most modern mathematical works, "both in English and French,.....including Puissant's work of 1842,.....never sparing time nor expense." Waugh stressed the danger of losing his services; he had recently applied for a magistrate's office in Calcutta. He mentioned his work for the *Manual*, and "the remarkable purity of his style of writing and severe accuracy of his language. He is without doubt the most scientific native India has produced."

Government considered his salary of Rs. 400 sufficient, but they consented a few months later to his drawing an extra Rs. 200 p.m. on taking over charge of the Observatory on the retirement of Vincent Rees.

By 1885 the output of the field parties had increased to such an extent that the computing office could no longer keep pace, and the Surveyor General made proposals for an increased scale of pay as well as of establishment. Government strongly objected to the principle of increasing pay with length of service only, and eventually sanctioned

the lower of the two scales put forward, and even then made a reduction on that.

The Survey Observatory had been started in 1825 to furnish a point of reference for surveys, to give astronomical time for navigators, and to maintain meteorological records. From 1835 daily time signals had been passed to a semaphore at Fort William that was visible to shipping on the river. In 1852 a call came for meteorological observations from one end of India to another, and this led to an increase in the establishment of observers and computers for that purpose at the Observatory, and a considerable increase in the responsibilities of the Chief Computer who had just taken over charge.

In 1858 on the initiative of Thuillier as Deputy Surveyor General, signals by electric telegraph were introduced, but it was quite two years before the new technique was mastered. Unfortunately Radhanath resented what he considered Thuillier's interference with his professional control during this difficult period, and he was led into unfortunate disputes until the Surveyor General's intervention brought his full apology and acknowledgment of the Deputy Surveyor General's rightful authority.

In thanking Waugh for the rise of salary that came with charge of the Observatory he writes of being out of health, but of thoughts of a visit to England, though he had heard that the cost of living and travelling there would be very heavy. He expressed an interest in Calcutta business, discussing the money market and the export of silver. "In consequence of the high price of money I have not been able to realise much profit from my transactions with the Bara Bazar property."

From 1858 he was living near Chandernagore, travelling to and from office by train, a "commuter". After Waugh's retirement in 1861 and the permanent establishment of a Superintendent of Trigonometrical Survey at Dehra Dun, Radhanath took the opportunity to resign, and the computing office was shifted to Dehra Dun. Though only 48 years of age he writes that "after almost thirty years service I begin to feel my health and strength on the decline." He obtained a medical certificate and retired on pension from 16 March 1862. He then bought a garden-house at Gondalpara where he died on 17 May 1870.

His brother Srinath had already resigned before 1861 because of "incipient cataract of both eyes." All the other Bengali computers resigned at the same time, except one who was transferred to Dehra Dun as Chief Computer.

Radhanath never married. Satyen Mukherji, a great-grandson of his brother Srinath, was admitted attorney of the Calcutta High Court, in

1917. The portrait of Radhanath now with the Survey of India was taken from an oil painting that had been with the family and might have been painted by John Peyton. He had written a story of his own life that was with the family as late as 1935.²

² Earlier biographical notes have appeared in *Prabasi*, August-September, 1932; *The Modern Review*, April and September, 1933; and *Desh*, November 1936—all Calcutta journals. See also *Historical Records of the Survey of India*, Vol. IV, pp. 461-62, and Vol. V, pp. 521-22, and passages scattered through both volumes.

MODERN CARTOGRAPHY IN INDIA

S. P. CHATTERJEE

CARTOGRAPHY is generally defined as the compilation of essentially new maps from previously existing data, and the processing of map manuscripts into finished drawings or plates for reproduction. The term cartography is also applied in its broader sense to all processes of map-making, and as such it takes a position between two basic sciences, Geography and Geodesy. We owe to German cartographers for recording the literature on cartography in the *Bibliotheca Cartographica* under the joint auspices of the Arbeitskreis (Cooperative Society for the recording of Cartographic Literature), Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde (Federal Institute for Geography at Bad Godesberg) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie (German Society for Cartography).

History of cartography in India.—The history of modern cartography in India can be traced to the early decades of the 18th century. In those days maps were compiled from the route surveys with the army and the political missions, and were confined to the maps prepared for the East India Company for the area under its occupation. The maps were in black and white with no pretence at accuracy or graticule control and were more diagrammatic than outcome of good cartography. As political conditions developed into the Company's acquiring more and more territories, the necessity of good maps was felt more and more. On Major James Rennel's enthusiasm and ability to prepare a map of Bengal, he was appointed the first Surveyor General in 1767. The surveyors in those days worked without adequate instruments and guidance. The instruments used for length, bearing and latitude were crude form of chains, perambulators, sextants, compasses, theodolites and chronometers. The methods were simple.

There were at first three headquarters of Survey of India, located in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, but were later on amalgamated under one Surveyor General of India. The Great Trigonometrical Survey was started in the beginning of the 19th century in Madras. In 1833, Sir George Everest became its Superintendent and later the Surveyor General of India retaining the superintendence of the Great Trigonometrical Survey. His most memorable work was in laying down the lines for completing the great meridional. During the period principal triangulation was conducted and completed in 1882 and formed the base, and all the process of survey and map-making was tied to it, thus giving a coordinated picture of maps. More attention was now given to map-making and cartography. Up to 1830, originals were sent to England for engraving and supplying copies of the maps. But

now for the first time engraving was taken on in India. The period also marks the era of lithographic printing of maps. This gave a lot of impetus to map-reproduction and led to a marked improvement in the production of maps. In 1878, the three branches of Survey Department—the Great Trigonometrical, Topographical, and the Revenue—were amalgamated. The Revenue Survey was placed under a Deputy Surveyor General. Before 1905 there was no coordinated plan of the operations, the nature of surveys and the style of maps. As a result of the recommendation of the Indian Survey Committee of 1904-05, the whole system of survey, map-drawing and map-reproduction was organized. A fresh topographical survey was taken up in 1905 and that has not yet been completed.

The Survey of India remained the only governmental cartographic organization in the country until the National Atlas Organization was set up as a full-fledged cartographic department by the Government of India in August 1956. The National Atlas Organization could enlist the support of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru from its very inception, and in May 1953 he referred the proposal of the present writer for bringing out a National Atlas of India to the Planning Commission and to the then Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research. In 1954, the Planning Commission agreed, in principle, to an investigation being carried out for the formulation of a scheme for the preparation of the Atlas. An Advisory Board was set up by the Government of India in March 1954, which was attached to the said Ministry. In July 1955, the Advisory Board was reconstituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, and an Executive Committee for the National Atlas was set up which was also attached to the same Ministry. The Advisory Board was further expanded two months later to represent all interests, including all the State Governments, most of the Central Ministries and geographical and other learned societies. At the same time the Executive Committee was also reconstituted with nine members for dealing with all matters pertaining to the preparation and printing of maps for the Atlas. A detailed scheme for preparing the National Atlas was discussed in several meetings of the Executive Committee and finally adopted and placed, at the end of 1955, before the Planning Commission for approval. This scheme was duly approved and included in the Second Five-Year Plan. In August 1956, the Government of India appointed the present writer as Director of the National Atlas and sanctioned 55 new posts for the purpose. Thus came into being the National Atlas Organization which has now over 150 full time cartographers and technical and administrative personnel on its staff.

Institutions and organizations of cartography and their activities.—Mention has already been made of the two organizations of cartography in the public sector, the Survey of India and the National Atlas Organization. Some details regarding these two organizations are given below.

The Survey of India.—The Survey of India is responsible for geodetic and topographical surveys and for preparation of up-to-date maps covering the whole country on standard scales. These maps are required for economic planning as well as for defence needs. There are heavy demands for large scale surveys and maps needed for preliminary planning and investigations connected with the development of natural resources, e.g., multi-purpose irrigation and hydro-electric projects, flood control measures, and industrial development schemes such as steel plants and oil refinery projects.

For functioning regularly and efficiently the Survey of India is organized into four Topographical Directorates, one Map Publication Directorate, two Training Directorates, and a Geodetic Branch under a Deputy Director. The Surveyor General assisted by a Deputy Surveyor General of the status of a Director has the overall control of the entire organization. The Topographical Directorates have 24 field topo-parties, 6 drawing offices and 3 reproduction units under their control.

The Geodetic Branch deals with the geodetic and geophysical activities of the Department. These comprise levelling of high precision, secondary levelling of gravimetric and magnetic surveys, tidal observation of ports, geodetic triangulation, high precision traverses and observation of astronomical latitudes, longitudes, azimuth of high degree and precision. All accurate survey works in India depend on the geodetic framework. The whole of India is covered by principal triangulation and levelling of high precision. The parties under the Topographical Directorates carry out secondary and tertiary triangulation and levelling and subsidiary theodolite traversing as necessary and close on to the geodetic framework with closer stations to provide adequate data for geographical position and elevation of points for the detailed topographical surveys mainly at scale of 1 inch to one mile. The topographical parties carry out the surveys on a definite programme during winter months and draw the originals from field surveys and submit them to the respective directors for publication. The Director, Map Publication is responsible for publishing geographical maps compiled from topo-surveys and other sources. He is assisted by a Drawing Officer and exercises control over the printing policy of all the other Directorates.

Maps prepared from modern survey on scale 1", $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ " to one mile cover 1,160,019 sq. miles of the Indian territory. The break-up of 101,372 sq. miles not covered by the survey so far is given below :

South of Latitude—20' :

8,105 sq. miles in Madhya Pradesh.

1,418 sq. miles in Maharashtra.

1,430 sq. miles in Goa.

North of Latitude—20' :

51,092 sq. miles in Gujarat.

1,675 sq. miles in Jammu & Kashmir.

13,693 sq. miles in Rajasthan.

2,790 sq. miles in Maharashtra.

9,180 sq. miles in former Vindhya Pradesh (now Madhya Pradesh).

10,672 sq. miles in Madhya Pradesh.

1,327 sq. miles in Assam.

The survey has been plotted on different graticules suitable for particular areas. The projections used are as follows :

1. Polyconic Projection on Everest Spheroid—1/10,000 to 1/1M.
2. International Projection for 1/M Carte International Series on International Spheroid.
3. Lambert's Conical Orthomorphic Projection for 1/2M on Everest Spheroid.

All departmental maps with the exception of a few on small scales are printed lithographically from grained zinc plates which, in this country, have entirely superseded the lithographic stones from which this method of printing derived its name. The map-reproduction work is done in (i) Negative Section—consisting of photography or camera unit, retouching unit and plate-making unit; and (ii) Printing Section—consisting of proving unit and printing unit.

The originals for reproduction are prepared from drawing and typing by hand, prints on art paper for composite map or pull on chromo-paper from engraved copper plate, and passed on to the Negative Section for photography. Wet plate photography is used for photographing all but the shade and the very small originals. In the wet plate photography the plate used is coated and sensitised immediately before use and developed immediately after exposure and before it has had time to dry. The developed negative is then passed on for duplicating into as many negatives as there are colours for printing by the powder process. The duplicate negatives are then passed on to the retouching unit. The negatives are retouched here for rectifying blemishes and separation of colours by blocking out all work on a negative which is not to be printed in a particular colour. This process involves a considerable time and is really bottleneck of printing. The blocked out negatives are then passed on to the plate-making unit.

Plates are prepared from these negatives by the albumen process. A grained zinc plate is coated with a solution containing ammonium bicarbonate and egg albumen and, when dry, is placed in a pneumatic printing frame in contact with photographic negative to be printed down, and is then exposed to sunlight or artificial light from arc lamp. After exposure the plate is removed from the printing frame and its coated surface is rolled up with a mixture of black ink, turpentine and benzol which dries rapidly. The plate is then developed by washing it in clear water. The plate when dry is ready for the printing machine.

The printing processes are of two kinds—direct and offset. The former receives the impression direct from the zinc plate whereas in the latter the impression is transferred from the zinc plate to a rubber blanket and from the blanket to the paper. Presses are further divided into rotary and flat bed machines. Offset rotary machines are more modern than direct flat bed ones and are capable of higher speeds. Their introduction into the Map Publication Directorate was delayed till it was proved by experiments that there would be no effect on the rubber blanket in tropical climate. It was found that rotary offset has no advantage over flat bed for short run. The printing zinc plates when received from the Negative Section are proved in the proving machines for registration and supply of colour proofs for examination, and after the proofs are approved finally, the plates are passed on for printing. The officer-in-charge decides whether to print on the flat bed or rotary according to the run. In addition to the normal process of photo-lithography certain auxiliary processes are required in the production of finished maps. These are letter press printing or copper plate engraving for foot-notes, etc.

Besides the above normal processes of photography, Vandyke process and Deepetch process are used for special maps. The former requires the original to be drawn on transparent paper and reproduced preferably in one colour only in the same scale. The latter is rapidly increasing in popularity abroad, and in our country it was first successfully worked in the Photo-litho Office at Calcutta in 1935.

The techniques of printing maps have not developed to the same extent in India as in other advanced countries. But even then the results are extremely good. The printing activities have considerably increased during the past ten years. Besides departmental and extra-departmental maps for which surveys were carried out, a very large volume of printing was undertaken for the National Atlas maps, railway maps, geological maps of Asia and a number of multi-coloured maps during the last decade.

The National Atlas Organization.—The National Atlas Organization is attached to the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs

of the Government of India. The new Advisory Board for the National Atlas and Geographical Place Names was set up by a Government Notification dated 23 March 1961 with the Deputy Minister as the Chairman and the Director of National Atlas Organization as the Member-Secretary. The Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Transport and Communications, Information and Broadcasting, and Home Affairs are represented on the Board. Besides these Ministries, the Planning Commission, the Central Statistical Organization, four geographical societies in India and both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are represented. The Surveyor General, the Registrar General and the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics are also its members. The functions of the Board, as laid down, are to advise the Government of India on all matters concerning the preparation and publication of the National Atlas of India, standardizing domestic and foreign geographical names and ensuring uniformity in the spelling of names appearing in all the publications of the Survey of India and the National Atlas Organization. The National Atlas Organization, therefore, gets the full benefit of advice on policy matters received by this highly representative body with a view to expediting the execution of work and solving the bottlenecks cropping up from time to time.

A Coordinating Committee has also been set up by the Government of India with the Ministry's Joint Secretary as its Chairman, the Director of National Atlas Organization as its Member-Secretary, and the Surveyor General, Director of Historical Division, Ministry of External Affairs, and Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Defence as its members. The functions of the Committee are to coordinate the action on the part of the various agencies involved with a view to expediting the preparation and printing of maps and the standardization of geographical names in accordance with the general policy recommended by the Advisory Board.

The National Atlas Organization has been functioning through its two offices at Calcutta and Dehra Dun, and has on its staff 126 technical personnel and 38 non-technical hands. In addition, a large number of students, drawn at present from the universities of Calcutta, Aligarh and Benares, are employed during vacations to cope with the increased volume of work. The Calcutta office of the Organization has two major technical branches, that is, Research Office and Drawing Office in which cartographical work is conducted under the overall control of the Director. The Drawing Office is being slowly mechanized, and Klimsch cartographic camera and photo-lettering machines have been obtained from Germany. The National Atlas Organization is now in a position to prepare negatives and plates of at least the smaller scale

maps of the Atlas. A first step has, therefore, been initiated to make the Organization independent of the Survey of India in the matter of printing of maps.

The first outcome of the National Atlas Project is the publication of the preliminary Hindi edition of the National Atlas in September 1957. The series of 26 maps on the scale of 1 : 5,000,000 contained in the Atlas relates to the physical background and socio-economic structure of the country, and as such it is found useful not only by those who are concerned with planning, but also by those interested in education administration, industry, trade and commerce.

Encouraged by the good reception of the first edition of the National Atlas in Hindi, the National Atlas Organization undertook, in October 1957, to prepare a comprehensive National Atlas of India in English. The issue was not a revision of the earlier edition, but an undertaking of a new National Atlas project in respect of scale, projection and coverage. The four objectives as laid down at the time of the preparation of the first edition, still hold good. Firstly, the maps for the National Atlas are to depict physical conditions and socio-economic characters of the different regions of India, which would mean highlighting each major element of the natural and cultural landscape, either singly or in combination. Secondly, the Atlas maps must be so designed as to be of help in delineating the planning of regions on the basis of which the natural resources of the country could be developed more efficiently. Thirdly, the contents of the maps are to be so drawn up as to enable Indian nationals to visualize the regional character of the Indian landscape in the context of the development schemes undertaken by the Central and State Governments during the successive Five-Year Plans. Fourthly, the Atlas, when completed, will enable scholars outside India to know all about the salient features of the geography of this ancient land. Besides these four, a new objective has been laid down, and that is, to initiate the present generation of geography students in the technique of plotting data as a first step to the preparation of maps, and also to enable them to earn during their vacations.

Other governmental institutions.—Of the other State Departments, the Geological Survey and the Meteorological Department deserve special mention. The geological map production division of the Geological Survey has a well-equipped cartographic office. It has recently prepared and published the ECAFE Geological Map of South-East Asia. Another ECAFE map showing the distribution of minerals is under preparation. In addition to systematic geological mapping of 43,501 sq. miles on 1 inch to 1 mile scale during the period 1956-61,

large scale geological mapping of 5,773 sq. miles was also carried out by the Geological Survey during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The Meteorological Department is preparing climatological maps of India in its drawing office following the specifications of World Meteorological Congress. Another recent development in cartography is the institution of map-drawing offices under the Registrar General and the State Census Superintendents. A large number of maps are in active preparation based on all-India census taken in 1961. The Diagnostic Survey of Damodar Valley, set up by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, has just completed an integrated study of the Damodar Valley and prepared a number of maps in the cartographic sections of the three units functioning at Calcutta, Patna and Kharagpur. The Calcutta unit has now been entrusted with the preparation of a Planning Atlas for the entire valley. The Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organization has taken aerial photographs of the Calcutta Conurbation and maps based on these are in the course of preparation. Besides, a number of land-use maps have been drawn up. The Land Utilization Board of West Bengal under the chairmanship of Prof. J. N. Mukherjee has also set up a cartographical office for the preparation of a land-use map of the State on the scale of 1 : 500,000.

Non-official scientific institutions.—The Indian Statistical Institute has also recently started a geography unit for the purpose of preparation of thematic maps required for planning. Experimental studies in cartographic techniques useful for regional and national planning are in progress. Evolving a method to work out optimum scales for maps for planning, and designing cartograms to indicate development works may be mentioned as the types of work undertaken by the unit. The National Council of Applied Economic Research has also set up a cartographic section, and has so far prepared some 500 maps for the techno-economic surveys of the different States of India. The *Economic Atlas of Madras State*, the first atlas prepared by NCAER, contains 55 maps accompanied by notes on sources, methods and contents. There are 14 sections under which maps are distributed. Of these sections, the most detailed and original work is done on climate, agriculture, man-power, industries, transport and trade. The maps of rainfall section show the districtwise variation in rainfall regime, rainfall efficiency and rainfall variability, and their impact upon crop-yield and cropping pattern. Agricultural section has 9 maps drawn with the object of delineating food scarcity and food surplus areas and evaluating the land according to gross value of output per acre of cultivated land, per capita output, intensity of cropping, etc. Man-power section contains 9 maps showing population growth during

1951-62, districtwise variation in occupational structure, distribution of industrial population, urban concentration of towns according to size, etc. Industry section contains 10 maps showing employment structure of large scale and small scale industries, location of industries such as textiles, agro-based industries, mineral-based industries, forest-based industries, chemical industries, and prospective industries. An important contribution of this section is analytical study of the locational advantages and disadvantages of existing and prospective industries with regard to raw materials, power, labour, marketing, etc. Transport and commerce section contains four maps such as accessibility to railways and highways, density of goods traffic on railways, inland, rail and river-borne trade, and sea-borne trade of Madras port. All the universities of India that have post-graduate geography departments under their control, have set up cartographical sections for the teaching of and research in cartography, and they are playing a vital role in the development of cartography in India.

Thematic maps and regional atlases.—The importance of specialized distributional maps for understanding regional personality was realized in India even in the eighties of the last century. The first atlas of India was published in 1886 by the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, Government of India, for the Indian and colonial exhibitions. It was revised in 1895 after a new census was taken. Its object was to give a general idea, with the aid of maps and diagrams, of the character of the country, its inhabitants and its resources, and to furnish such leading statistics as might illustrate its commercial, financial and educational conditions. Some 24 maps were incorporated mostly on the scale of 1"=162 miles, and the coverage was fairly extensive both in the physical and the economic fields. The maps and diagrams were printed in the office of the Surveyor General of India at Calcutta, and the explanatory chapters were for the most part written by persons having special knowledge of the subjects dealt with. The very fact that unnecessary details about place names were omitted from these maps shows that they were not just ordinary types of reference maps.

The next atlas was brought out in 1909 as a companion to the volumes of the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, and it was subsequently revised in 1931. There are 66 plates of which 29 are of specialized type drawn on the scale of 1"=300 miles, 16 represent chief cities of India and the environs of Calcutta and Bombay, and the rest are provincial maps on the scale of 1:4 M. In the specialized map section there are two maps showing India and the surrounding countries, and India in relation to the British Empire; one each on relief, geology and vegetation; 12 climatic in 5 plates; 9 on population, race and religion in 6 plates;

12 on agriculture in 3 plates; one on minerals; 2 political and military; one on railways; one on railway and inland navigation in 3 sections; one on archaeology; 4 historical in two plates; 19 provincial maps; and 2 on Afghanistan and Aden. With the publication of this atlas in 1909, there was considerable slackening in the atlas-making efforts in India during the next 40 years.

The next period of activity in the sphere of making specialized maps started in March 1949 with the publication of the present writer's *Bengal in Maps*. It was quickly followed by a succession of specialized maps in atlas form : *Statistical Atlas of Madras Province* (1949) ; *Economic Atlas of Andhra Desa* (1949); *India in Maps* (1950); *Atlas on Livestock and Livestock Products* (1950); *Statistical Atlas of Bombay State* (1950); *Madhya Bharat in Maps* (1951); *Statistical Atlas, West Bengal* (1953); and *Statistical Atlas of Kutch* (1954).

The next period of intense activity was ushered in after a gap of two years, heralded by the publication of the *National Atlas of India* in 1957, edited by the author of this article. The names of atlases containing specialized maps produced in this period are : *Power Atlas of India* (1957); *Indian Agricultural Atlas* (1958); *Agricultural Atlas of Madhya Pradesh* (1958); *Mysore State in Maps* (1958); *Statistical Atlas of Orissa* (1959); *Statistical Atlas of Rajasthan* (1959); *Mysore State—an Atlas of Resources* (1960); and monocrop atlases like *Indian Cotton Atlas* (1957); *Atlas of Indian Lac* (1958); *Indian Oilseed Atlas* (1958); *Indian Jute Atlas* (1959); *Coconut Atlas of India* (1959); *Indian Tobacco Atlas* (1960); and *Economic Atlas of Madras State* (1962).

Of the thematic maps published by the National Atlas Organization since 1957, those that deserve special mention are (i) the physical maps (ii) the population maps, and (iii) the transport and tourism maps.

(i) The physical maps are intended to show the various aspects of the surface configuration of the country. There are 20 plates of which 14 are on millionth scale and 2 on two millionth scale. These form the component sheets covering the whole of India showing relief by hypsometric tints, some geomorphological features and physiographic regions in different order of hierarchy such as provinces, sections and sub-sections.

(ii) The variegated patterns of the distribution of population in India have been carefully brought out in the 15 plates of the population fascicule on the scales of 1 to 1 million and 1 to 2 million. The main purpose of this map is to show, in a most detailed manner, the distribution of population of all individual villages and hamlets, and towns and cities of India. Another object is to show both rural and urban

population by proportional symbols in one scale of measurement, thus rendering them mutually comparable. And the final aim is to further classify both rural and urban population into broad livelihood classes. On this map rural population has been indicated by dots of 3 sizes representing 100, 500 and 1,000 persons, and two colour categories, red and green representing agricultural and non-agricultural rural population. Urban population has been indicated by circles proportional to population in 4 colours; purple, blue, green and red, representing industrial, commercial, agricultural and service towns respectively, based on the predominant livelihood category of the towns. The circles of towns having 25,000 population and over are again divided into sectors to indicate the actual proportion of different livelihood classes. Another map in 5 plates on scale 1 : 2 M, showing density of population, is under preparation by choro-isopleth method based on 1961 census figures. This map shows density patterns in a detailed manner because the density has been worked out not by administrative divisions but by demographic regions. For preparing this map the entire country is divided into nearly 50,000 small grids of 5-minute squares, each measuring about 70 sq. km. on an average. The density of each square is found out by adding up the population of the villages and hamlets falling within it. Choro-isopleths are drawn on the basis of these divisions and bring out the density belts in a most vivid manner.

(iii) The series of maps on transport and tourism, comprising 22 plates, portrays the complex networks of all systems of transport in this country along with objects of tourist interest. This series shows exhaustive details of road systems, classified according to administrative and surface types. Administrative classification of roads, including national highways, state highways, major district roads and other roads, is indicated by varying thickness of lines. Surface classification covering concrete, black-topped, metalled and unmetalled roads, is indicated by different colours. Road information relating to distances, petrol stations, ferry services, unbridged crossings, bridges, rest-houses (both with and without board), bus services, passes, telephone call offices, forested stretches, tracks and their jeepability, etc. is given by special symbols. The map shows the network of railway systems of the country, classified into three types according to gauges—broad, metre and narrow, and into two types according to their number of tracks—multiple and single. Portions electrified and under electrification are also indicated. Passenger amenities at different stations, such as availability of retiring room, refreshment room, motor transport, etc. are also carefully depicted. Main air-routes with distances and air-ports classified according to the nature of runways fit for heavy, medium and

light aircrafts are accurately shown. Inland waterways with the maximum drafts in tonnes, and sea-routes with distances and destinations are indicated. Various air and sea-routes with distances and destinations are shown. Various air and sea navigation aids such as radio beacons, lighthouses and harbours are also shown. In other words, all possible forms of transport and their inter-relation are most vividly brought out on this comprehensive map.

The trends in cartographic development.—Every attempt is being made to develop cartography in India, though we have not yet reached the stage of benefiting from newly developed electronic devices. It may be that in the near future we might resort to the electronic colour separation and the control of registration and colour on multi-cylinder lithographic presses. Our defence programme is intimately linked up with the speed and efficiency with which Indian cartographers process the data procured as the result of aerial photography. The need for a better portrayal of relief on a military map is keenly felt as contours are found to be not very helpful. Experiments are being conducted in the university departments of cartography to solve this problem by modifying the Tanaka method, and adopting contours of graduated weights and of three different colours to indicate high, medium and low grounds, and also applying shaded relief of various styles printed in different colour bands to indicate such grounds. Experiments are also being conducted to improve aviation cartography, and different charts are being evolved dealing with visual and instrumental navigation and special features. The Indian maps of the ICAO series are on the scale of 1 : 1,000,000, and these portray a certain selection from the topography visible from the air, stressing the essential features. This scale is also found suitable for higher speed aircraft and forms the ideal aircraft emergency chart.

In the private sector there is alignment of geographer, artist-designer, draftsman and printer working together to produce maps for commercial use. Of the new techniques adopted for drawing maps, mention may be made of scribing, which is still used in a very limited sense in India. Glass is being slowly replaced by plastic sheetings as the medium for scribing in Europe and the United States, and it is time that we in India should adopt this technique for better cartographic work. These and many other improvements in map compilation and drafting as well as in reproduction processes can be effected if a cartographical institute is set up to advise the Central and State Governments on all matters concerning geographical cartography and cartographic research of a geographical nature.

PROBLEMS OF MODERN RECORDS IN ENGLISH BOROUGHES

EDWIN WELCH

THERE are 402 boroughs in England and Wales, the population of each borough ranging between 880 and 1,091,500. The boroughs are divided into three categories—county boroughs which provide all local government services, municipal boroughs which only provide about two thirds, and metropolitan boroughs which are confined to the Greater London area.¹ The number of these boroughs which employ a professional archivist is small and, because many of them are engaged for the ancient records only and work under the direction of the borough librarian, little has been done on modern borough records. The subject, however, is of considerable interest because of the complexity of the problem and the inadequacy of the staff and accommodation to deal with it. It is an attempt to discover the answer to every archivist's perennial problem—how to use one's resources over a wide field.

Modern English boroughs are controlled by elected councils of the mayor, aldermen and councillors, but their administrative machinery consists of between five and twenty-five departments each headed by a professional chief officer and taking its instructions direct from the council or one of its committees. Some of the larger departments are subdivided into sections which may achieve a considerable measure of independence. This complex machinery has evolved over the past century much as the royal officers of state evolved during the Middle Ages. There is very little national standardization in borough administration—boroughs are only compelled by law to appoint about half a dozen chief officers—and surprising differences between boroughs have arisen principally for historical reasons. The town clerk is, nominally at least, the most important of the chief officers, but his powers vary widely and he would be a brave man who ventured to dictate to his fellow chief officers.

The greatest difficulty in controlling modern records in boroughs is therefore the existence of many departments and sections each of which has its own archives. These are kept in cupboards, attics or cellars, often outside the main borough offices, without any form of list or index.

The next difficulty is the zealous care with which each department safeguards its own independence. Unfortunately the archivist rarely is a chief officer and the record office forms a section of the town clerk's

¹ The author ignores as irrelevant in this context the titles city and county of the city which are essentially titles of honour.

department or the public library. There is often considerable resistance to the suggestion of transferring old departmental records to another department and the present writer is told that an independent record office fares little better. Even if the record office had sufficient staff to inspect these scattered archives regularly, it would still be necessary to overcome the deep suspicion of the archivist's intentions.

The first step is to survey the records of each department briefly. It is usually far more easy to obtain the permission of the council for this than to penetrate the defences of some departments. Some chief officers are very willing to cooperate, others do not understand what archives are and have no knowledge of their departmental system (or lack of system) for keeping records, while others deny the existence of departmental records or refuse to show them because of pressure of work. It may take a year of tactful but persistent telephone calls to succeed in seeing departmental records. Even then only a manuscript history of the department or one treasured old relic may be all that is produced at first. In departments of different boroughs the present writer has been shown old cells filled almost completely with records to a height of five feet, and cupboards containing three small volumes which had escaped the hands of the destroyer. Sometimes the records covered a longer period than the department had had a separate existence. Borrowed from the town clerk for some administrative reason, volumes of committee minutes came to light in a cellar on one occasion, while another cellar was filled with layers of records which had been placed there when no longer required. Their removal was very like an archaeological excavation.

The second stage is to persuade each department to deposit all its non-current archives in the record office. It is amazing how an old, dirty, damp-stained volume found abandoned on the floor of an attic is claimed by the department as having current importance. Fortunately space for storage is usually at a premium and the chief officer will usually choose the lesser evil and deposit his records rather than destroy them. Even then he usually requires reassuring that his records will receive much better treatment than he has given them and be made available to him at a moment's notice. The task of cleaning, sorting and weeding out these non-current archives is usually lengthy as few borough record offices have a staff of more than four or five to deal with everything. The weeding of files offers considerable possibilities for reduction of bulk where several copies of a letter are normally kept, and where interdepartmental communications are kept separately it may be possible to destroy the carbon copies of outgoing memoranda. When the cataloguing of the records is completed a start can be made on the final

stage—arranging for regular transfers of departmental archives when they ceased to be current.

A system like that employed by the Public Record Office or the London County Council² for regular transfers requires not only the existence of a record officer in each department but also a filing system geared to the destruction of ephemeral material. In all experience of the present writer only one borough department had both these essentials—probably because all its earlier files had been destroyed during the last war and a new system introduced. In this case after discussion with the record officer the transmission of the five per cent non-current records worth saving became automatic. Unfortunately no other filing system has proved adequate for this treatment. Some systems are dependent on the whim of the individual, while others file every letter chronologically or leave bundles of papers in cupboards. The archivist has neither the time nor the authority to insist on a better system and so the preservation of records becomes more difficult. The only solution is to find a fairly senior and sympathetic member of the department and explain to him what you are trying to do. Since they usually come to see what you are doing in their department in any case, it is usually easy to contact them. A brief lecture on the importance of archives will usually extract the promise that the archivist will be called in before anything of importance is destroyed. Nevertheless, it is as well to keep an eye on the dump in which waste paper is normally put.

The problems do not cease when these records have been rescued, cleaned and catalogued. Inevitably a department which has deposited its archives tends to pass on difficult queries to the record office, sometimes in the hope of embarrassing the archivist who has taken away its records. Here, however, the archivist has the advantage of access to the minutes of the council and committee and the records of other departments. From these he can frequently answer the question which had foxed the enquirer and point out the advantages of centralized record-keeping. A prompt and comprehensive answer is often the best method of encouraging further deposits.

The chief difficulty with queries is not to find the answer—that can usually be done quickly if the archivist knows his records—but to discover the precise information required. Few people seem to have the ability to think out exactly what they require, and it is one of the tasks of the archivist to discover this by skilful cross-examination. The enquirer who asks about borough boundary extensions usually wishes to know whether Smith Street was part of the borough in 1905, while a question of great complexity can often be solved by referring the enquirer to

printed material. The final struggle comes when the answer is produced and the enquirer wishes to take the document over to his own department. Once there it may easily be lost for ever and so he is urged to look at it in the office. If it is borrowed then a system of considerable complexity is needed to ensure that it is returned. The usual arrangement at Southampton is to make three copies of a note of the loan—one goes in the place of the document in the strong room, one is kept by the record office, and one goes to the department concerned. A careful watch has to be kept on the length of time it is borrowed and a demand for its return sent at the appropriate time.

The advice to be drawn from this account is that the archivist in a small record office needs to get on well with his fellow administrators. The time spent in explaining what he does, what his strong rooms contain and the importance of preserving records is never wasted. With a larger staff something can be done towards replacing the cooperation of record-producers by the watchfulness of record officers trained by the archivist. But in the end nothing is more effective than good public relations, and the archivist in a small record office must rely on that as much as on his technical competence.

² See the Public Record Office's *Guide for Departmental Record Officers* (1958)

RECENT TRENDS IN INDIAN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN MODERN INDIAN HISTORY*

S. ROY

“MORE work has been done on modern Indian History in the British Isles than in India”, so observed an eminent Indian historian in 1940 in the course of his presidential address to the modern history section of the Indian History Congress. But there has been such a prolific spate of writing on India’s recent past since the above pronouncement was made that it is hardly possible to regard it as applicable to the present situation. A ready explanation of this proliferation seems to be provided by the increasing national awareness of the need for a history of India told by her own historians and adapted to the mood of the new age which Independence has ushered in. For the adage that ‘every age needs its own view of history’ has special applicability for a country in which it is widely held even among serious scholars that much of what the British wrote regarding India was not only Europe-oriented but was inspired by a “spirit of jingoism which looked at every event through official eyes and from the standpoint of imperial interests”, and hence “suffered to a large extent from distortion and suppression of truth, biased judgment and wrong inference”. No wonder that in such an atmosphere the task of rewriting history should cease to be a mere academic aspiration and become elevated to “a patriotic duty”. If this duty has not been discharged in the pre-Independence era it was because “no Indian historian during the period [so we are told] dared discuss freely and in detail either the shady transactions of the British in respect to the princes and people of India, or the ignoble and selfish motives which inspired the Government of India in different spheres of its activities”. It seems thus logical that freedom should infuse a new vitality into Indian historiography and urge it to reconstruct India’s recent past strictly from an India-oriented angle.

An outstanding example of this new approach is provided by Sardar K. M. Panikkar’s *A Survey of Indian History* (1947), remarkable alike for its thesis that “the true history of India during the British period does

not consist of the activities of the East India Company or . . . the British Crown, but of the upheaval which led to the transformation of Indian society through the activities of India’s own sons,” and for the attempt it has made to belittle the contribution of the British rulers towards that transformation. In a subsequent work, *Asia and Western Dominance* (1953), Panikkar has offered a fuller exposition of his own view of European imperialism, focussing all his attention on the sheerly negative aspects of the foreign and colonial domination. Significant in the same context is the first volume of Dr. Tara Chand’s *History of the Freedom Movement in India* (1961), a study, attempted on a rather wide canvas, of the decaying ancient regime in India and of the triumphant foreign imperialism which took its place. It is significant not so much for the critique it presents of the former as for the image it conjures up of the latter as a sheer negative force, which ruthlessly tore into pieces the entire fabric of the country’s economy. Pre-occupation with the negative features of imperialism characterizes a number of recent works, among which may be mentioned Dr. K. K. Datta’s *Unrest against British Rule in Bihar, 1831-1859* (1957) and Dr. S. B. Chaudhuri’s *Civil Disturbances during the British Rule in India, 1765-1857* (1955), and most of which seek to establish popular disaffection as a constant of the whole period of British domination. A more vigorous frontal attack on the British view of their regime in India has been administered by Dr. R. C. Majumdar in his recent work, *British Paramountcy and Indian Renaissance, 1818-1905* (1963) which, incidentally, is the source from which all the disparaging remarks on British historical writings on India cited in the preceding paragraph have been derived. A monument alike of prodigious labour and of painstaking analysis of a mass of materials, the volume attempts a clean sweep of what its author believes to be the imperialist distortion of history, and seeks to “draw in true colour the colonial imperialism and the economic exploitation which formed the real background of British rule in India. . . .” Dr. Majumdar’s is no solitary voice denouncing recent British historiography. He symbolises, in fact, what may be called a dominant trend in modern Indian historical writing.

But while the recent proliferation in Indian writing on modern India is partly explained by free India’s spirited reaction to the ‘mis-representations’ of foreign historians, that is far from the whole story. Historical research is strictly conditioned by the availability of the sources of the necessary type and quality, and if the Indian historian of the pre-Independence era failed to produce a substantial historical literature it was not because the political situation had made him the victim of a self-imposed censorship, but because he was handicapped by the inaccessibility of the essential source material. When A. K. Maitreya, for instance,

*The object of this article is to present a rapid review of the work done in the field of modern Indian history since 1947. It is none of its aim to offer a complete catalogue of the studies that have been undertaken in the field during the period, nor to attempt a critical appraisal of the merits or demerits of any of them. Its scope is strictly limited only to indicating some of the general trends in the field of historical investigation. A somewhat abridged version of this paper was presented to the International Congress of Orientalists held at New Delhi in 1964.

broke new ground in 1895 by his study of Sirajuddaulah, followed by another on Mir Qasim, his only sources were secondary works in English. Naoroji, Dutt and Ranade had equally to depend for their pioneer economic studies entirely on published documents and secondary sources. Yet these studies presented a fearlessly critical analysis of British impact on India's economy, and defined, incidentally, the pattern which nationally oriented economic writings on India have largely been following since their times. There was thus no dearth of enthusiasts for providing a "corrective" to contemporary British opinions; what was lacking were original source materials. This state of stagnancy continued virtually till 1940 when, chiefly through Dr. S. N. Sen's initiative, the portals of the Central Archives were thrown open to research under certain restrictions. This measure, further liberalized in 1947 and reinforced by similar measures taken by the State Governments, produced the same effect on Indian historical research 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 parallel in the country's history.

This drive for historical revision has also been richly nourished by a parallel movement for the publication of primary sources, which, having had its early start in Maharashtra through the efforts of scholars like Rajwade, Parasnis, Khare and Apte, gradually affected other regions, and in which the leading repositories, public as well as private, have commenced playing an increasingly active role. An enumeration of the prolific results of these activities is beyond the scope of the present paper. But more than a passing reference needs to be made to the work done, for instance, in Maharashtra, and particularly to the monumental *Poona Residency Correspondence*, planned by Sir J. N. Sarkar and published under his general editorship, which is a worthy supplement to Dr. G. S. Sardesai's earlier editorial venture, *Selections from the Peshwa Daftar*. Both were sponsored by the former Bombay Government. Other recent publishing enterprises in Maharashtra include the continuation of the *Selections from the Peshwa Daftar* by the State Archives and the publication, among others, of select family papers by the Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala and other learned bodies. Among the publishing ventures in other regions may be mentioned analytic catalogues and English translations of Persian manuscripts bearing on Punjab history brought out by the State Archives (Patiala); news letters and private papers relating to the Sikh State published by the Sikh Historical Society (Amritsar); *Selections from the District Records* brought out by the West Bengal Government; continuation

of the magnificent *Records of Fort St. George* series by Madras Record Office; and *Select Diplomatic Correspondence of the Nizam* published by the Andhra State Archives, to refer only to a very few items. But at the back of the movement has been the very solid achievements of the premier repository in the country, the National Archives of India which has not only set an example by undertaking a comprehensive publication programme on its own (which includes carefully edited texts of such a wide variety of materials as eighteenth century Persian correspondence, despatches between Fort William and India House during the years 1748-1800, *Selections from Educational Records* from 1860 onwards), but has established a new standard of textual editing for others in the field to follow. The National Archives has also broken new ground by formulating a well-articulated plan of publishing on the basis of active collaboration with leading universities and learned institutions in the country. The plan includes, among others, publication of the edited texts of eighteenth and early nineteenth century documents in Persian, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Sanskrit and other Indian languages. There has been of late a noticeable shift of interest towards the private papers of important historical figures, Indian as well as European. A fairly large collection of these is now available, partly in original but mostly in microfilm, at the National Archives repository, whose contribution towards the awakening of public interest in private documents deserves more than a casual notice.

These developments have led not only to an increasing drive for a more thorough exploitation of primary sources, but to a steadily growing urge to attack problems and fields of enquiry on which adequate investigation was not possible before. This new impulse is particularly in evidence in the prevailing academic pre-occupation, for example, with the theme of the national movement in India. There is scarcely a university whose alumni have not fallen under the spell of that theme and there is hardly any one who has been able to resist its fascination. There is no other topic whose investigation has attracted to itself so liberal an official patronage. Among the tangible results of this new trend a reference has already been made to the first volume of Dr. Tara Chand's *History of the Freedom Movement in India*, compiled under the Central Government's aegis, of which two more volumes have yet to see light. To Assam Government belongs the credit of bringing out a one-volume history of the freedom struggle in that State prepared by Professor K. N. Dutt. Under the Bihar Government's aegis has come out Dr. K. K. Datta's *Freedom Movement in Bihar* in 3 volumes (1957-58). Among individual scholarly efforts, Dr. R. C. Majumdar's impressive two volumes bringing the story up to 1920

easily take the place of pride, and a third, dealing with later years, is scheduled to make its appearance soon. Written on or around this theme or aspects of it are also Dr. N. L. Chatterjee's *History of Freedom Struggle* (1958), Dr. V. P. S. Raghuvansi's *Indian Nationalist Movement and Thought* (1951), Haridas Mukherjee's *India's Fight for Freedom 1905-06* (1958), Dr. Amba Prasad's *The Indian Revolt of 1942* (1958), and Professor H. N. Mukherjee's *Indian Struggle for Freedom* (1948), to take only a few random examples from a voluminous literature which is rapidly expanding in dimension.

A deep sense of dedication, overt or implied, and a keen desire for fidelity to materials and scientific objectivity pervade most of these writings. Yet they betray a sharp conflict in approach both in the selection of evidence and its interpretation. One approach, though no longer much in favour, is to look upon the national movement as the inevitable outcome of that intellectual and social ferment, which, having taken root in India in the latter half of the 19th century under the impact of the British rule, brought to the forefront a new elite who became the spearhead of the movement. The other and more common approach is to belittle the contributions of Western enlightenment and to treat nationalism as an essentially native product which had been in existence as a positive factor in Indian history long before the advent of later political developments. On the latter view, which finds its best expression in K. K. Datta's volumes cited above, India was never reconciled to the British rule, and every act of disaffection and uprising against that rule, irrespective of its scope, range, timing, or motivation, has to be treated as being organically related to India's struggle for freedom. This has led Dr. Datta and writers like him to stretch the history of that struggle back to the very beginning of the British rule in India, and to regard even the Mutiny of 1857 as a significant phase of that history. The greater bulk of the literature, which the recent centenary of the Mutiny has called into existence, is deeply coloured by this extreme attitude. Between these two polar positions Dr. R. C. Majumdar takes his stand somewhere midway. While he is uncompromising in his denunciation of the patriotic approach to the Mutiny as a romantic fallacy (*The Sepoy Mutiny and Revolt of 1857*), in his volumes on the history of the freedom struggle he is disposed to describe it as "the first great and direct challenge to the British rule in India on an extensive scale", and expresses the opinion that "it helped the genuine national movement for the freedom from the British yoke". So far as the latter movement is concerned, he is inclined to exalt its militant and violent aspect at the expense of its constitutional and reformist features. The best portrayal of the story of the Mutiny, as distinct from

its polemics, is Dr. S. N. Sen's *Eighteen Fifty-seven* (1957), which gives one the very feel of the stirring events it has set itself to depict. Designed also as a straightforward narrative, though on a smaller canvas, is Dr. P. C. Gupta's book, *Nana Saheb and the Rising at Cawnpore* (1962), a good example of completely disengaged history. But on the national movement itself disengaged historiography has yet to produce a substantial literature of the same type.

For a full history of the whole phase of the movement one has still largely to refer to compilations like Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's *History of the Indian National Congress*, the second volume of which covering the years 1935-47 was published in 1947. But this, like many another earlier compilation on the subject, suffers from the limitation of not having drawn on original archives and of being rather brief on the earlier phases. So far as these phases are concerned, one may mention J. C. Bagal's *History of the Indian Association, 1876-1951* (1953), H. D. Mukherjee's *The Growth of Nationalism in India, 1857-1905* (1957), H. D. and Uma Mukherjee's *Bepin Chandra Pal and the Struggle for Freedom* (1948). But the bulk of the literature of this genre is based on secondary sources, and has a very limited value. Of a different class is Sujata Ghosh's short but well-documented study of the "British Indian Association, 1851-1900" (*Bengal : Past and Present*, July-December 1958), compiled from the Association's own archives. Equally noteworthy is Dr. Pansy C. Ghosh's *The Development of Indian National Congress, 1892-1909* (1960), which has drawn liberally on primary sources, public as well as private, and deals with a period which has not been studied in detail so far. Dr. Ghosh has also broken new ground by focussing attention on the relationship of the Congress with its financial patrons. A more direct sociological approach has been attempted by Dr. A. R. Desai in his *Social Background of Indian Nationalism* (1948), which, while giving a brief history of the whole movement, tries to fit it in a social framework composed by the Indian middle class, whose evolution is the theme of the earlier chapters of the work. The sources used are for the most part secondary works, quite a few of which, like R. P. Dutt's *India To-day* and James Mill's *History of British India*, belong to partisan historiography.

Connected with the above studies is also a voluminous biographical literature which has grown up in recent years round the principal figures in contemporary or near-contemporary politics mostly consisting of works of piety by admirers. Some noteworthy compilations are : Biographies of Tilak by D. P. Karmarkar (1956), S. L. Karandikar (1957) and D. V. Tahmankar (1958); Biographies of Tilak (1958) and Gokhale (1959) by T. V. Parvate; Dr. Karan Singh's

study on Aurobindo, (*The Prophet of Indian Nationalism* 1963); Tendulkar's monumental 8 volumes on Gandhi (1951-54); Pyarelal Nair's *Mahatma Gandhi : The Last Phase* (2 volumes, 1956-58); Kodanda Rao's work on Srinivasa Sastri (1962); B. H. Tyabji's life of Badruddin Tyabji (1952); and H. B. Sarda's life of Shyamji Krishna Varma (1959). Both Gandhi and Nehru have inspired such a torrential flood of biographical literature that it is not possible to mention all the works here. Mention should, however, be made of autobiographical compilations of memoirs by some of the prominent national figures themselves, like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's *India Wins Freedom* (1960), remarkable for its frank and outspoken interpretation of political developments in his time; Dr. Rajendra Prasad's *At the Feet of the Mahatma* (1955) and *Autobiography* (1957), which despite their subdued tone throw new light on a number of developments in the Congress; and M. R. Jayakar's more outspoken *The Story of My Life*, Vol. I, 1873-1922 (1958), significant for its extensive citation of documents belonging to his personal archives. These are just a few examples.

Both the classes of literature cited above suffer from the limitation of being too near the events they describe, of which all the important sources are not yet available. At best they are interim studies requiring subsequent modification. More important as historical sources are the documentary compilations which have recently appeared on the various phases of the movement or on the activities of the important figures participating in them. Notable instances are : *Source Material for a History of the Freedom Movement in India, 1818-1920* (2 volumes, 1957-58), published by the Bombay State Committee for a History of the Freedom Movement; a similar compilation published by the late Hyderabad State Committee; *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, being published under the aegis of the Government of India; *Gandhi's Letters to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel* (edited by V. C. and S. V. Desai, 1957); Nehru's *A Bunch of Old Letters* (1958); and *Cross Roads, being the Works of Subhas Chandra Bose, 1938-40* (edited by Sisir K. Bose, 1962).

Apart from the few studies on the Congress already mentioned there has been little effort to understand or analyse the structure of the politics or parties which supplied the framework of the national movement. Mention, however, may be made of Dr. Lal Bahadur's work on the Muslim League (1954), which gives a bare summary of some of the salient facts, and Ram Gopal's *Indian Muslims : A Political History, 1858-1947* (1959), which attempts a critical analysis of the circumstances leading to the ultimate cleavage between the two major communities in

India. The only book worth mentioning on the history of communism is M. R. Masani's *The Communist Party of India* (1954), which deals with that party's activities in the early thirties. This has, incidentally, been rendered almost obsolete by Overstreet and Windmiller's much more comprehensive *Communism in India* (1959). Hardly any of these works tries to penetrate beyond the surface or to understand or analyse the invisible forces at work behind the world of appearances. An admirable effort to investigate the inner working of the British imperialist psychology in relation to Indian nationalist aspiration during the closing years of the 19th century is exemplified by Dr. H. L. Singh's *Problems and Policies of the British in India, 1885-98* (1963), whose principal theme is the gulf which came to separate the British ruling classes and the Indian elite during this period. The heroic efforts of two British statesmen to bridge this gulf form the central topic round which have been constructed Dr. S. Gopal's two scholarly dissertations, *The Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon* (1953) and *The Viceroyalty of Lord Irwin* (1957), remarkable alike for their objective approach and the penetrating structural analysis they present of the politics of the time. For an intimate *aperçu* of the politics and parties of a more recent period one may refer to V. P. Menon's *Transfer of Power* (1957), which, however, suffers from the limitations of a restricted perspective and leaves many questions unanswered.

Despite the definite shift which is noticeable towards contemporary history, particularly towards the history of nationalism, there has been hardly any weakening of enthusiasm for the earlier phases of India's past. Studies of these phases have been following more or less the familiar patterns set by a previous generation of British historians, and one notices, moreover, the same tendencies, discernible in earlier writings, to deal with history within self-complete compartments like political, administrative, social, economic, and so forth. History, moreover, still continues largely to be viewed from the centre, emphasis being generally placed on central policies, programmes and activities to the comparative neglect of the people's responses to them. The only significant difference is that researches today incline more towards specialized investigations on particular regions or on developments affecting relatively short periods than towards comprehensive studies embracing, for instance, the entire country or extending over a long stretch of time. A remarkable exception is provided by Sir Jadunath Sarkar's monumental four volumes of *The Fall of the Mughal Empire* in which the three themes of the decaying old order, the rising peripheral powers, and the triumphant British imperialism supplanting both have been orchestrated into a single mighty epic of tragic grandeur narrated with

masterly erudition and subtle artistry. Such synthetic approach is, however, rarely in evidence in recent writings. This may be partly due to the lack of the fundamental monographs on which alone comprehensive studies could be based.

As for political history the basic approach still appears to be mainly biographical, which consists in the construction of a narrative framework round a well-known historical figure with a picture of the administrative, political and social environment thrown in. As representative specimens may be mentioned Dr. Dharm Pal's *Administration of Lord Lawrence* (1952); Dr. A. C. Ray's *Mir Jafar* (1953); Dr. Mohibbul Hasan Khan's *Tipu Sultan* (1951); Dr. V. A. Narain's *Jonathan Duncan and Varanasi* (1959); C. K. Srinivasan's *Baji Rao I* (1961); Dr. Brij Kishore's *Tara Bai and Her Times* (1963); and Khushwant Singh's *Ranjit Singh, Maharaja of Punjab* (1962). Altogether different in approach is Dr. B. K. Gupta's *Sirajuddaulah and East India Company, 1756-57* (1962), which analyses in the larger context of Anglo-French rivalry the circumstances leading to the collapse of the ruling power in Bengal. The inevitable character of the conflict between the ruler of Bengal and the alien traders is also the principal theme of Dr. K. K. Datta's introduction to the first volume of *Fort William-India House Correspondence, 1748-56*. A more rounded view of the structure of contemporary politics as also of the subtle interconnexions between the diverse forces which led to the revolution of 1757 emerges from Sir J. N. Sarkar's treatment of the subject in the closing section of *History of Bengal* (Vol. II) edited by him. To Sir Jadunath we owe also an English translation of Karam Ali Khan's portrayal of the last two rulers of Bengal embodied in *Muzaffar-namah (Bengal : Past and Present, 1946-49)*.

British encounter with Indian and neighbouring powers, both diplomatic and military, forms the theme round which a number of specialized studies appear to have been compiled. A good example of this genre is Dr. S. P. Varma's *A Study in Maratha Diplomacy: Anglo-Maratha Relations, 1772-1782* (1956), which has made copious use of Marathi sources in addition to English official records. Practically on the same theme though reflecting a different approach is Dr. Sailendra Nath Sen's *Anglo-Maratha Relations during the Administration of Warren Hastings, 1772-85* (1961), whose hero throughout is Warren Hastings himself. Other examples of the same class include Dr. A. C. Banerjee's *Rajput States and the East India Company* (1951); Dr. H. C. Batra's *The Relations of Jaipur State with East India Company, 1803-58* (1957); Dr. K. N. Dutta's studies on the early British relations with the tribes of Assam (*Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 1954*);

Dr. Rebati Mohan Lahiri's *Annexation of Assam* (1954); J. Mahajan's *Circumstances leading to the Annexation of the Punjab, 1846-49* (1949), based on a critical study of Currie Correspondence; K. C. Chaudhuri's *Anglo-Nepalese Relations from the earliest Times till the Gurkha War* (1961), and the like. To a different category belongs D. K. Ghose's *England and Afghanistan* (1960), an accurate analysis of the evolution of the foreign policy whose principal aim is to show that there was a basic unity in the British foreign policy in Central Asia in spite of the popular belief that this was subject to periodical oscillations dictated by the vagaries of British party politics. A general survey of the foreign policy of the British Government in India has been attempted in Dr. B. Prasad's *Foundations of India's Foreign Policy, Volume I, 1860-82* (1955), chiefly on the basis of official records.

While British politics and diplomacy have attracted a number of investigators hardly any comparable interest has been evinced in the activities of other European nations in India. There is scarcely any recent work on the Portuguese in India that may be regarded as significant. On the Dutch the only work worth mentioning is Dr. T. J. Poonen's *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar* (1948). Dr. T. Raychaudhuri's very scholarly study on the Dutch activities on the Coromandel (*Jan Company at Coromandel, 1662-1700*) belongs, as its title shows, to economic history. On the French in India two studies which deserve mention are Dr. S. P. Sen's *The French in India, 1763-1816* (1958) and Dr. V. G. Hatakar's *Relations between the French and the Marathas, 1668-1815* (1959).

Another subject which continues to suffer from neglect is military history. Apart from *The Official History of the Indian Armed Forces during the Second World War, 1939-45*, planned by the Combined Inter-Services Historical Section of the Governments of India and Pakistan and published under the editorship of Dr. B. Prasad (of which five volumes are now available), there has been very little effort to attack this particular field of enquiry. Two recent works which deserve special mention in this connection are Mrs. Amiya Barat's *History of the Bengal Native Infantry* (1962) and Rajendra Singh's *History of the Indian Army* (1963). On the problems concerning the military system and military organization in British India, Nirad C. Chaudhuri's *Defence of India*, published 28 years ago, still remains unreplaced as the most scholarly and competent work on the subject.

A more fruitful field of research is presented by topics connected with local or regional history. The fascinating theme of the history of Punjab has inspired in recent times a spate of studies among which

may be mentioned Ganda Singh's *A Short History of the Sikhs*, Volume I, 1469-1765 (1950) and Dr. H. R. Gupta's *Punjab on the Eve of the First Sikh War* (1956). Among recent works on Maharashtra special mention may be made of Dr. Sardesai's *A New History of the Marathas* in 3 volumes (1946-48); K. V. Purandare's *Life of Chimmaji Appa* (1948); Manohar Malgaonkar's *Kanhoji Angrey, Maratha Admiral* (1959); Dr. V. T. Gune's *Judicial System of the Marathas* (1953); and Dr. Y. N. Deodhar's (unpublished) study on Nana Phadnis 1742-1800. Other examples of significant regional studies are : Professor R. K. Choudhary's *History of Bihar* (1958); J. Roy's *History of Manipur* (1958); Dr. Dharma Bhanu's *History and Administration of North-Western Provinces, 1803-58* (1957); M. Arokiaswamy's history of the modern districts of Coimbatore and Salem, entitled *The Kongu Country* (1956); and D. R. Regmi's *Modern Nepal : Rise and Growth in the 18th Century* (1961), to mention only a few titles.

The greater bulk of recent regional studies shows a positive inclination towards administrative and economic history. Dr. Dharma Bhanu's work, already referred to, for example, is mainly an essay on the broad theme of the evolution of the British administrative system on the ruins of the system it replaced. This restriction in scope enables the author to delve deeply into the archives of the period and explore the subject with the detail that has so often been lacking for it. To the same genre belongs Miss Nihar Kana Majumdar's *Justice and Police in Bengal, 1765-1773* (1960), a study of the decline of Muslim judicial system within the tight framework of the Nizamat in late 18th century Bengal. The gradual replacement of this framework by an entirely new one is the theme of Dr. B. B. Misra's *Judicial Administration of the East India Company*, which well transcends the limits of a regional study. His next work, *The Central Administration of East India Company, 1773-1834* (1960), which covers a wider canvas, is a detailed description of the administrative machinery which was set up by the Company at Fort William in Bengal and was in active operation till 1834. The emphasis of both the compilations is, however, on the formal aspects of the administrative structure. It hardly endeavours to penetrate beyond the surface in order to locate or identify the forces behind the scene which made the administration what it really was. More empirical in approach is Dr. Naresh C. Roy's *The Civil Service in India* (1958), which is a welcome addition to the lacuna which still exists in a systematic analysis of the Indian Civil Service from its start towards the end of the 18th century to the present day. Dr. Roy's scholarly survey forms a basis for future empirically-oriented

analysis, though it completely ignores the ideological factors, like English utilitarianism, for instance, which, as Eric Stokes has convincingly shown in his *English Utilitarians in India* (1959), deeply influenced the evolution of the bureaucratic machine.

Almost a similar concern with external features and formal minutiae is also in evidence in the greater bulk of recent writings on Indian constitutional development. Among notable works produced during the period under review may be mentioned the revised editions of G. Nihal Singh's *Landmarks in India's Constitutional and National Development* and of S. M. Bose's *The Working Constitution of India*; Dr. A. C. Banerjee's *Indian Constitutional Documents* (of which the third volume covering the years 1917-39 appeared in 1949), *The Making of the Indian Constitution, 1939-47* (1948), and *The Constituent Assembly, 1946-47* (1947); Dr. K. K. Datta's *India Marches to Freedom* (1949); and Sir Maurice Gwyer and Dr. A. Appadorai's *Speeches and Documents on the Indian Constitution, 1921-47* (1957). The last comprises some 380 documents including statutes, orders, committee reports, party pronouncements, speeches and letters. There has been almost a bewildering spate of works on developments since 1947 in respect not only to constitution, government and party-politics but also to India's international relations. They relate, however, to a period which still lacks the proper perspective, and are beyond the scope of the present paper. But the general outlook of most of the writings is pronouncedly formal and is in sharp contrast with the approach reflected, for instance, in works like Professor C. H. Philips' *Evolution of India and Pakistan, 1858-1947* (1962), which tries to highlight the contribution to India's constitutional development of factors other than formal documents and public utterances of men in prominence or in power, and brings into clearer focus the wider ramifications, relationships and repercussions which played a crucial part in the development.

A more promising field of research which has proved to be also more popular in recent times is provided by economic history. Although little economic history is being written today in the grand manner of Dutt or Digby, the old controversies centering round the theme of economic ruin of India under British impact, made familiar since their times, still continue to be the most frequented road to historical understanding. The tendency now, however, is to amplify or to re-emphasize the earlier ideas and concepts on the basis of a more thorough and laborious documentary analysis than was possible before. To the familiar 'drain' theory, for instance, Dr. N. K. Sinha gives a new meaning in his *Economic History of Bengal from Plassey to the Permanent Settlement* (Vol. I, 1956), whose central theme is the collapse of trade and indus-

tenancy reforms (particularly to the Permanent Settlement), which, it is claimed, by creating conditions for secure land-holding (e.g., N. C. Sinha, *Indo-British Economy A Hundred Years Ago*, 1946; S. C. Jha, *Studies in the Development of Capitalism in India*, 1963) brought about a strong *nisus* towards investment in lands at the expense of industries. But historians are not yet agreed as to whether the conditions under the old regime were less favourable for land-holding. Dr. N. K. Sinha has, for instance, collected a mass of evidence showing that tenure in Bengal and Bihar was absolutely secure under the Mughals (*Economic History of Bengal*, Vol. II, 1962), while the evidence for areas outside Bengal has been compiled, among others, by B. R. Grover in his "Land Rights in Mughal India" (*The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, I, 1963). But even so, Dr. Sinha admits that the British reforms did give rise to an unprecedented scramble for land in which the urban moneyed interests played the most conspicuous role, transforming themselves in the process into a new social class of rentiers. In this view he is on the whole supported by Dr. B. B. Misra (*The Indian Middle Classes*, 1961) who also ascribes the rise of a new landed class to British tenancy reforms. Dr. Misra, however, holds that the political climate of pre-British India was too authoritarian to favour the growth of a bourgeoisie, though he omits to explain why this growth was inhibited even after the climate had considerably softened under the aegis of the British. But so far as he equates his middle classes with the new anglicised literary, professional classes which the British expansion brought into prominence, and the latter with the old, literary upper castes, they can hardly be regarded as 'new'. Much less can they be correctly labelled as a middle class proper, neither having owned their existence to any industrial expansion nor having contributed significantly to the development of the wider socio-economic order of which they formed an integral part. A more realistic approach is reflected in Professor Gadgil's interim study already cited, which indicates a definite shift in emphasis from vague speculations on a hypothetical social class to a factual history, stretching over a long period, of the more concrete and less nebulous indigenous business groups and the objective milieu in which they actually functioned.

The field which appears to have been much better mapped is that of agrarian and rural economy, but here again research seems inclined not so much towards a structural analysis of this economy, as towards its encounters with the expanding British political system and the transformation it underwent in the process. The argument of Dr. R. D. Choksey's *Economic Life in the Bombay Deccan, 1818-1939* (1955), for instance, is the disintegration of the self-sufficient village economy of

the Deccan and the impoverishment of the peasantry under the heel of British imperialism. While the work gives a detailed analysis of the several factors responsible for this disastrous outcome, it omits to provide any objective basis for the idyllic picture it has tried to draw of the self-sufficient and 'democratic' rural communities, for interfering with which the British have received nothing but condemnation from its author. The decay of the old pattern of rural economy looms large also in Dr. A. V. Raman Rao's *Economic Development of Andhra Pradesh, 1766-1957* (1958), whose aim is somewhat wider, namely, to bring into focus all the aspects of the economic life in the area adversely affected by the British impact. The story starts with the collapse of cotton manufacture in the region, which by forcing the displaced weavers to take to agricultural pursuits brought about an excessive pressure on land, a process, which the Permanent Settlement, later reinforced by further tenancy legislations, tended to intensify almost to a breaking point. Agriculture, as a result, took a downward course leading to continual migrations of peasantry to swell the ranks of urban workers, thus permanently crippling the village economy. Although constructed round the theme of declining village communities in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Sulekh Chandra Gupta's *Agrarian Relations and Early British Rule in India* (1963), which is an intensive study of the agrarian changes brought about by the British administration in the former 'Ceded and Conquered' provinces, breaks new ground by placing special emphasis on the significant part played in the transformation by influences stemming from the changing British doctrines on rent and agrarian relations. Dr. Gupta has endeavoured also to give a rounded picture of the structure of pre-British village communities, though the study suffers from the unavoidable limitation of having to depend almost entirely on the official assessment of the situation and on evidence which was bound to be largely partisan. A somewhat different view of the changes resulting from British administrative measures emerges from Dr. Nilmani Mukherjee's *The Ryotwari System in Madras, 1793-1872* (1962), which shows that while the new system of directly taxing the peasant proprietor did little to remove the distress of the Madras peasantry, it practically left intact the social fabric of the villages themselves.

On the other hand, according to Dr. N. K. Sinha, nothing short of a disastrous upheaval resulted in Bengal out of the British experiments in agrarian reform culminating in the Permanent Settlement. In his *Economic History of Bengal* (Vol. II) he draws a rather glowing picture of the pre-British agrarian system in which the leading role was played by the Zemindar and the Qanungo, who shared between them the responsibilities of the *de facto* administration of rural Bengal. The

tries in Bengal under the onslaught of an alien political domination. Like many others in the field, Dr. Sinha discerns an economic drain in the chronic excess of exports over imports which formed the chief feature of the Bengal trade during the period, and which, in his view was never offset by any compensatory factors. But the novelty of his approach consists in his endeavour to identify also as a source of 'drain' the systematic appropriation by the British of the bulk of the producers' surplus, a result achieved by an arbitrary manipulation of prices in the local market. Professor K. K. Datta has similarly offered a new slant to the 'drain' theory in his *Survey of India's Social Life and Economic Conditions in the Eighteenth Century, 1707-1817* (1961) by linking up the question of drain with the flow of money from Bengal to Madras and the west coast during the late eighteenth century. Apparently he does not attach much importance to the possibility that such inter-regional capital movement might have, by forging closer economic ties between the different regions, actually accelerated that process of economic unification which was essential for the country's material development, nor even to the fact that by 1792 specie had commenced moving back to Bengal. What most of the discussions on the question of excess export omit to take account of is that this phenomenon was not unique in respect to India and that many another country, normally considered as prospering and not under the heels of imperialist or colonial domination, actually underwent similar drains.

A writer to strike a somewhat different note is Dr. Amales Tripathi who, in his *Trade and Finance in the Bengal Presidency, 1793-1833* (1956), takes his stand on the hypothesis that so far as the 'drain' was in the form of excess export from Bengal 'it returned some direct equivalent to land in the form of prices'. Dr. Tripathi also refers to the net increase which took place in the volume of export as a consequence of the British impact, which he estimates at several hundred per cent though he is quite conscious of the inherent weakness of an economy which had to depend exclusively on the production of raw materials. The positive aspects of Indo-British economic relations during 1792-1833 figure also in Dr. H. R. Ghoshal's *Economic Transition in the Bengal Presidency* (1950), according to which the decay of Indian industries was not due so much to political factors as to the inexorable economic forces unleashed by the Industrial Revolution in England. The resultant losses, Dr. Ghoshal thinks, were offset by the expansion which took place in the production of raw silk, indigo and opium, leading in its turn to a considerable rise in the volume of export. In the author's view the dissolution of the old pattern of economy was the necessary prerequisite of the emergence of a new economy attuned to the changed

circumstances. Another study which is hesitant to identify British political domination as the primary factor in the decay of Indian handicrafts is Dr. S. Bhattacharya's *The East India Company and the Economy of Bengal from 1704 to 1740* (1954), which very clearly shows that a decline had already started owing to factors like over-taxation, maladministration and continual one-way flow of specie to Delhi, long before the British were able to acquire a firm foothold in Bengal. Dr. Bhattacharya also lays special stress on the impressive expansion in the overseas trade of Bengal and a rapid rise in specie import which took place under the aegis of the British. A very opposite view is held by R. Mukherjee in his *The Rise and Fall of the East India Company* (1958) in which foreign control over the overseas trade and foreign ownership of the capital invested in it, leading inevitably to foreign political domination over the country, is shown as the prime cause of the dissolution of its self-sufficient village-based economy and its transformation into an agricultural farm of England. All this is presented in the familiar garb of Marxist interpretation in which theoretical speculations rather than an objective analysis of evidence play the most conspicuous part.

While recent enquiries are largely directed towards the mutual impact of finance, trade and industry in the context of British domination, the general tendency is to interpret the process in terms rather of the official policies or measures it evoked than of the socio-economic framework within which it was enabled to articulate itself. Of the various components of this framework both the industrial producer and the merchant money-lender have received of late a good deal of attention and the supposed enslavement of the latter by alien merchant capital looms large in quite a few works. Yet hardly any study appears to have been made of what might have been his precise relations with indigenous moneyed interests before the 'subjugation' actually came about. A process closely analogous to this 'subjugation' had, according to some (e.g., R. Mukherjee), been started on a fairly wide scale even before alien intrusion under the aegis of a bourgeoisie which had emerged from the ranks of artisans themselves and which had been extending its sway over the latter. This is denied by Professor D. R. Gadgil (*Origin of Modern Business Class*, 1955), who, however, concedes that in a limited sphere merchant capital had established a superior control over the craftsmen during the pre-British period. Others, on the contrary (e.g., K. A. Antonova and Dr. Irfan Habib) see no evidence whatever of such a phenomenon prior to the advent of the aliens. Why the moneyed interests failed to develop into a genuine bourgeoisie, captaining industries on their own, continues thus to be an unsolved question. There is a tendency to attribute this stagnation, among other factors, to British

destruction of this system, according to him, was as much motivated by a 'rage for order and symmetry' as by deliberate malice. While Dr. Sinha thinks that the Zemindars had already under the Mughals proprietary rights in the soil, others (e.g., Dr. S. Gopal, *The Permanent Settlement in Bengal and Its Results*, 1949) believe that these rights were for the first time created under the Permanent Settlement as an act of deliberate policy.

While the detailed studies undertaken in the various spheres of economic history do help to bring into clearer focus the complex of changes resulting from the British advent in India and the British interference with Indian life, we are still far from obtaining a coherent picture of the social system or systems within whose framework the various implications of these changes worked themselves out. There is no dearth of serious and competent studies on the reforms introduced under the British aegis in the various spheres of social life (e.g., S. Natarajan's *A Century of Social Reforms*, 1956; Dr. B. B. Misra's *The Indian Middle Classes*, already cited), but very little effort has been made to go behind the record of the administrative measures, policy statements and public utterances to see how the different social institutions, customs and traditions actually worked or to what extent they determined both personal endeavours and organisation of authorities at different levels. Even on such a living topic as that of caste there has been hardly any historical study properly so called. Researches on this or other topics of social interest are usually pre-occupied with the interpretation of old texts, formal documents, or data relating to the contemporary situation gathered mostly from field work.

Yet when all is said the record of the period under review can hardly be regarded as altogether gloomy. If much still remains to be done there is no denying that much has also been achieved and that many an obscure area in recent history has been brought into a clearer view. What is even more encouraging is that there has lately been an increasing awareness of the limitations of compartmentalized history, as also of the need to look upon the historians' task as an endeavour to understand the structure and the development of the Indian society as a whole. It would perhaps not be too optimistic to predict that a history illumined by this new rounded outlook is in the offing.

A CLAY-COATED MANUSCRIPT IN THE GILGIT COLLECTION

RANBIR KISHORE

EARLY in 1931, on his way back from the archaeological expedition to Chinese Turkestan, Sir Aurel Stein discovered a valuable collection of manuscripts some two to three miles west of the Gilgit Cantonment in the mountain range of Hindu Kush¹. Playful digging round a mound by some shepherd boys had revealed a circular chamber with relief plaques similar to those in the Buddhist stupas in Central Asia and Tibet. This engaged the attention of Sir Aurel, and as a result of further digging at the site a mass of ancient manuscripts packed in a wooden box was found. The entire collection which came to be commonly known as the collection of Gilgit manuscripts, was eventually acquired by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. It is now in the custody of the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

Most of the manuscripts in the collection are on birch bark, written in Sanskrit (late Gupta script) and containing Buddhist canonical texts. Some of them belong to the sixth century or even an earlier period. The collection includes one clay-coated manuscript which is written in the said script and comprises *jataka* stories. This manuscript is different from the rest inasmuch as writing in its case has been done on a clay-coated fibrous base. Like the manuscripts on birch bark, this manuscript is in *pothi* form, its sheets being oblong and of the size 265 × 75 mm. On a casual examination of the manuscript Sir Aurel thought that it was written on a special kind of paper of the type introduced into Chinese Turkestan from China in the fourth century A. D. or earlier² (as was the case with manuscripts discovered in East Turkestan at Chien Fotung, the Caves of Thousand Buddhas).³

When this manuscript was received in the National Archives of India its edges were found crumpled and the clay had a slight tendency to peel off. As such it was in immediate need of reinforcement for its proper and safe storage. Its rehabilitation was done by the hand-lamination process, using chiffon gauze and cellulose acetate foil, a technique developed in the Department in early 1951. The crumpled bits of the manuscript, which were left over, were retained in the Research Laboratory for the purpose of studying the nature of the clay coating and the fibrous base.

¹. Report from the Staff Correspondent at Simla published in the *The Times* (London) dated 24 July 1931.

². *Ibid.*

³. David Diringer, *The Hand Produced Book*, pp. 344-45 (Hutchinson's Scientific and Technical Publications, London, 1953).

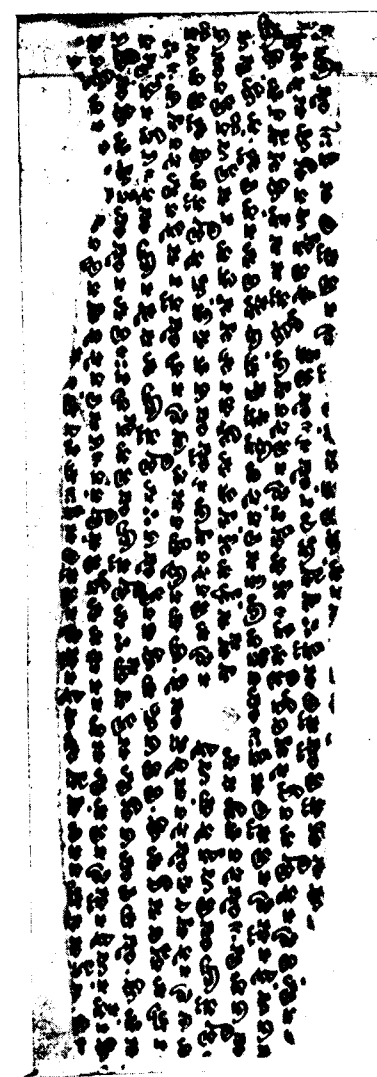
The portions of the manuscript sheets where the clay had shown a peeling tendency revealed on examination that the base was made of raw fibres compressed together. The fibres on the top tended to become loose on indenting them with a needle, and those immediately under the coated surface appeared unsized. The coating of clay was perhaps meant to serve as a fine layer for inscribing the characters and to improve the legibility by providing a contrast to the fibrous base. That the fibres were raw and compressed together was also revealed by an examination of the edges in the case of which a light indentation with a needle made long, thin fibres quite visible. The surface of the fibrous base looked like that of a light pressed straw board or an unsized blotting paper.

A few crumpled pieces were scrapped with a sharp knife in order to obtain a sample of the clay. An analysis of the sample showed that over 80 per cent of the material was calcium sulphate mixed with small quantities of potassium and magnesium sulphates. A minor portion, 5-10 per cent, consisted of calcium carbonate, and siliceous matter mixed with fibres left over from the scraps. From this analytical data the clay was identified as mineral gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$).

The crumpled pieces of the manuscript were left in water and washed repeatedly to remove the clay sticking to them. These were then kept for a night in one per cent sodium hydroxide solution and thereafter washed with distilled water and fibrillated with fingers applying light pressure. The fibres were left in distilled water for a night. The excess water was decanted, and the residual fibres were again left in fresh distilled water.

Microscopical examination revealed that the fibres were long, and had tubular and indented ends. The external diameter of the fibres varied between .02 and .04 mm. and their length between 1 mm. and 2.5 mm. They appeared to be bast fibres and bore similarity to *Linum Usitatissimum* (flax) and *Cannabis Sativa* (Indian hemp)—more to the latter. Since a complete separation of the clay particles embedded in the fibrous structure was not possible, their exact identification could not be made.

The material on which the clay-coated manuscript in the Gilgit collection is written, appears to be akin to paper. It is a fibrous web bearing surface coating of clay. As already pointed out, the fibres resemble those of *Cannabis Sativa* and the coating is that of mineral gypsum. Fragments of manuscripts of a similar type were discovered by Sir Aurel Stein during his earlier expeditions in East Turkestan. The fibrous components of these fragments have been identified as *Boehmeria Nivea* (Chinese hemp). *Boehmeria Nivea*, popularly called China grass cloth fibre plant, grew in the region extending to the north-west of the Himalayas, and was



A page from the clay-coated Gilgit manuscript



A cluster of fibres from the clay-coated Gilgit manuscript
(magnified 350 times)



A section of fibres from the clay-coated Gilgit manuscript
(magnified 150 times)



Surface photomicrograph of the clay-coated Gilgit manuscript
(magnified 15 times)

not unknown in India in those days⁴. Similarity between the clay-coated Gilgit manuscript and those earlier discovered by Sir Aurel Stein in East Turkestan suggests that these manuscripts might be of the same origin. It is in that case probable that the fibres in the Gilgit manuscript also are those of *Boehmeria Nivea*, or *Rhea* plant as it is known in India. Fibres of the *Rhea* plant closely resemble those of the Indian hemp⁵, and since some sort of natural gum is contained in them a compact web could be formed from them and a fine layer of clay made to adhere to its surface.

It is, however, difficult to know the origin of the clay-coated manuscript in the Gilgit collection from the analysis of its material or the examination of its form and script. The *pothi* form and the Brahmi script of the manuscript may point to its Indian origin, but most of the manuscripts discovered in East Turkestan (e.g., fragments of a palm leaf manuscript from Kashgar in the Godfrey collection, a collection of manuscripts on birch bark acquired by Lt. Bower from Kuchar, Weber and Macartney collections, etc.) are in that script and on materials then in vogue in India. Dr. Hoernle, who has edited some of these manuscripts, has suggested that they might have been written by the Indians who migrated to Kuchar (East Turkestan)⁶. The Chinese province of Sinkiang, now almost a desert, was once a centre of learning where people using different dialects (Indian, Chinese, Tibetan, etc.) met and wrote books in different languages and scripts. With the spread of Indian culture to China, Tibet and other countries at the time when Buddhism was at its peak the scripts of the Buddhist works became the main vehicle of expression of religious thought. No wonder that many manuscripts of the period are found to be written in Indian scripts and to conform to the *pothi* form. At the same time, there being a good deal of contact between India and China during the period, the Buddhist monks going to China usually carried with them a plethora of India-produced manuscripts which constituted their literary wealth. In the circumstances, it is difficult to establish where precisely the clay-coated manuscript in the Gilgit collection might have been produced.

⁴. G. Watt., *A Dictionary of the Economic Products of India* (Calcutta, 1889).

⁵. *Ibid.*

⁶. David Düringer, *op. cit.*, pp. 362-64.

NEWS NOTES

INDIA

Obituary

We regret to announce the death in close succession of two prominent members of the Indian Historical Records Commission: Dr. B. A. Saletore, a former Secretary, who served the Journal as Chief Editor from 1952 to 1956, and Col. R. H. Phillimore, who was associated with it from its very inception as one of its most scholarly contributors.

Born in October 1900, Dr. Saletore took his M.A. degree from the Bombay University in 1928, Ph.D. from the University of London in 1931 and D.Phil from the Giessen University in 1933. He started his professional career as a Lecturer in History and Politics at Sir Parashurambhau College, Poona which he left in 1939 to join Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Arts College at Ahmedabad. On being taken up in the Bombay Educational Service towards the end of 1941 he was posted in the Gujarat College where in course of time he rose to be the Head of the Department of History. He became Director of Archives, Government of India in February 1952, and held that post for five years. Thereafter he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of History in the Karnatak University. He retired from the service of the University in 1962 and died one year later, on 18 December, 1963. Dr. Saletore was for many years a member of the Indian Historical Records Commission, and in 1953 he represented India at the Second International Congress on Archives held at The Hague. A prolific writer he is the author of several works, noteworthy among them being *Social and Political Life in the Vijayanagar Empire*, *Medieval Jainism*, *India's Diplomatic Relations with the West*, *India's Diplomatic Relations with the East*, and *Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions*. His death is deeply mourned by historians and archivists all over the country.

Col. Phillimore was born in England in 1879. Educated at Westminster School and Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1898 and arrived in India in 1900. After working as a Sapper Officer at Rangoon and other places he joined the Survey of India at Dehra Dun in 1903. His Survey career lasted for 31 years with a short break during World War I when he was placed on military duty in Europe. He officiated as Surveyor General of India in 1931. After his retirement in 1934 he set to work to write a history of the Survey of India from the earliest days-making Gulmarg his summer residence and Dehra Dun his winter retreat. On the outbreak of World War II he was appointed Officer-

in-Charge of the Map Section of the General Staff at Simla with the rank of Captain. In 1942 he changed over to a civil post in the Survey Headquarters at Delhi, and eventually took over the duties of Assistant Director of the Military Circle looking after the interests of the Survey personnel on active military service. He held that post till 1946. One of the most active members of the Indian Historical Records Commission he spent his entire retired life in India, dedicating it to the writing of a history of the Survey of India, of which he was able to complete no less than five volumes covering the period up to 1861. A monument alike of prodigious labour and profound scholarship these volumes constitute an unparalleled store-house of information on survey, explorations and map-making activities in India from the days of Arab geographers till mid-nineteenth century. His death, which took place on 1 November 1964, has created a vacuum in the field of scholarship which it will be difficult to fill.

National Archives of India

The Department was unable to accession during the two years under review the non-current records of the Government of India and its various agencies on a large scale due to paucity of storage space. Only such records as filled up the gaps in the existing series, or could no longer be retained by the creating agencies, were accessioned. Notable among the accessions were several sheets of maps of Indian States based on 1961 census and strip maps of certain areas, received from the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and the Ministry of External Affairs, respectively; a number of files of the Central Treasury, Hyderabad (1921-53); and some index volumes (1858-1958) and authenticated copies of Bills passed by State legislatures and assented to by the President of India, both received from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The programme of acquiring collections of private papers bearing on modern Indian history was vigorously pursued, and the valuable acquisitions in this category include the personal correspondence and other papers of Ganesh S. Khaparde, a close associate of Lokamanya Tilak, and those of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the celebrated Indian moderate leader. The Department's collections of papers of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. N. B. Khare were further enriched by the addition of a few documents relating to the former's life and some letters that passed between the latter and certain Indian leaders. The Department also acquired collections of personal papers of late Dr. M. R. Jayakar, V. Krishnaswami Aiyar and Parushottam Dass Tandon.

Rare manuscripts in Persian and English acquired from private custody by purchase on the recommendation of the Historical

Documents Purchase Committee include "Shigarfnama", a travelogue containing an interesting account of European life from the Indian point of view; "Sairat Manazil", a topographical account of the principal buildings of Delhi; "Kitab-i-Falahat," a work on agriculture; and "Field Army Orders," a collection of Major General Sir Ewen Baillie's orders from his headquarters at Cawnpore to his field army between the years 1807 and 1810.

Under the programme of acquiring microfilm copies of records of Indian interest available in repositories outside India the Department received several rolls of Lord Dalhousie's papers from the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh, of Lord Bentinck's papers from the Nottingham University, and of the papers of Lord Salisbury, Duke of Argyll, Viscount Morley, Sir John Lawrence and Lord Curzon from the Commonwealth Relations Office, London.

The Departmental Library acquired over 2,200 books and about 700 volumes of periodicals. Among these were some rare publications donated by the India International Centre, and a number of volumes of gazettes received from the Central Secretariat Library and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Steady progress was made by the Department in preparing reference media. Besides preparing lists of records of several agencies of the Central Government, it listed the microfilm copies of records received from foreign repositories, and the private papers of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Ganesh S. Khaparde, Badruddin Tyabji and Dr. N. B. Khare. While Vol. II of the *Descriptive List of Mutiny Papers in the National Archives of India, Bhopal* was published, the *Descriptive List of Secret Department Records, Vol. II (1776-80)* was sent to the press and listing of records of that Department for the year 1781-82 was completed. The Persian Correspondence available among the Foreign Department Proceedings pertaining to the period 1819-22 was handlisted, and cataloguing of the seals found among the Original Persian Letters Received completed. The work of compiling Index to the Foreign and Political Department Records, Vol. II (1781-83) made satisfactory progress.

Microfilming of the series *Report on Native Newspapers* was continued. Several volumes relating to Bengal (1916-29), Bombay (1918-32), North-West Provinces (1891-1911), Assam (1907-11) and a few other areas were microfilmed. Microfilm copies were also prepared of the private papers of Gopal Krishna Gokhale and several volumes of the daily *Independent* (1919-21), the bi-weekly *Panjabee* (1904-09), and the weekly *Organiser* (1947-56).

As usual, the Department rendered technical service and advice to a number of institutions and individuals on problems connected with the

repair and rehabilitation of records, besides attending to its normal work of preserving the records in its own custody. The microfilming of rare manuscripts belonging to the Raza Library, Rampur was continued and over 400 manuscripts were microfilmed. The mobile microfilming unit of the Department visited Kathmandu for microfilming rare books in the Bir Library there. It also visited Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Bombay for microfilming documents relating to Gandhiji.

The remaining two Research Fellows working in the Department under the Research Fellowship Scheme finished their work during the period under review.

The Department continued to impart training in Archive-keeping, and the trainees for the One-Year Diploma Course admitted to the sessions commencing in September 1962 and 1963 completed their training. Five trainees were admitted to the new session which began in October 1964.

Under the Publication Programme of the Department *Fort William-India House Correspondence, Vol. XV* (Secret Department, 1782-86; Hony Editors : Prof. C. H. Philips and Dr. B.B. Misra) was published, printing of Vol. VII (Home Department, 1773-76; Hony Editor : Prof. R. P. Patwardhan) made further progress, and Vol. III (Home Department, 1760-63; Hony Editor : Dr. R. R. Sethi) and Vol. XXI (Military Department, 1797-1800; Hony Editor : Prof. S. R. Kohli) were sent to the press. *Selections from Educational Records, Vol. II*, dealing with the development of university education (1860-87), was also published, while the Calendar of Persian Correspondence Vol. XI covering the years 1794-95, was sent to the press. Besides this, *Selections from Ochterlony Papers* (1818-25) was brought out in collaboration with the University of Calcutta, and printing of the volume of Persian Akhbars being brought out in collaboration with the University of Delhi neared completion.

Regional Office, Bhopal.—The normal work of checking, arranging and listing the records acquired from the Government of the erstwhile Bhopal State was continued, and the usual measures for their preservation and maintenance were taken. Official agencies as well as private research scholars were helped in consulting records. The exhibition of select documents of historical importance at the premises of the Office continued to be popular.

Goa Archives.—The administrative control of the Goa Archives at Panjim has been transferred from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to the National Archives of India with effect from 1 October 1964.

National Committee of Archivists

The Sixteenth Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at Poona on 30-31 December 1963 with Shri K. D. Bhargava,

Director of Archives, Government of India in the chair. Before taking up discussion of the agenda the members observed silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. S. N. Sen and Dr. B. A. Saletore, former Directors of Archives, Government of India and Shri S. Chidambaram, Curator, Madras Record Office. The Committee then discussed the action taken on its previous recommendations. Reviewing the progress made by the various State Governments in the survey and listing of records in private custody in connection with the compilation of the National Register of Records, the Convener informed the members that the Government of India had deferred decision on the Committee's recommendation in regard to the matching grants for the States as most of the State Governments had not been spending the full amount of the sanctioned grants-in-aid. In regard to the lamination of records he observed that flat-bed hydraulic machine was useful for laminating documents in bulk, but for smaller repositories Barrow's rotary laminator, which is cheaper, was quite suitable though even that might be dispensed with if hand lamination process using acetone could be introduced by such repositories. The Committee reiterated the urgency of having suitable buildings for housing State archives and recommended early provision thereof by such of the State Governments as did not have them. While considering the proposal for allowing special pay to the employees working in the stack areas of archives departments in view of the arduous nature of their duties, the Committee recommended that, in the first instance, the staff employed for dusting work in the stack areas be given special pay since such work involved risk to the health of the workers. Another recommendation of the Committee was that the Record Keepers holding charge of the district and taluka Record Rooms should be imparted training at the State Archives concerned. The Committee also recommended provision of air-conditioned rooms for microfilms and setting up of photostat and microfilm units at the State Archives.

The Committee's Seventeenth Meeting was held at Trivandrum on 7-8 December 1964 under the chairmanship of Shri K. D. Bhargava. After observing silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and passing a condolence resolution on his sad demise, the Committee took up discussion of the action taken on the recommendations made by it at its Sixteenth Meeting. Some members pointed out the difficulties involved in the State Governments granting special pay to the employees working in the stack areas of archives departments. It was therefore agreed that, as a first step, the employees attending to dusting work in the stack areas be provided with aprons and masks with a view to minimizing risk to their health.

Discussing the need for having a set of uniform rules for weeding non-current records, the Committee recommended that the State Governments should frame rules on the lines of those contained in the *Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure* (4th edition, 1963). The Committee then dwelt on the undesirability of Record Offices in some States forming part of the Secretariat set-up with common staff, budget, etc., and recommended that early action should be taken by the State Governments concerned to have separate staff, etc. for Record Offices in the interest of proper care and preservation of archives. Other recommendations of the Committee were that the State Governments should vest powers of inspection and retirement of records in their respective Directors of Archives, where such powers have not already been delegated to them; and that the Government of India should make over to the National Archives of India the funds earmarked for grants-in-aid to State Governments participating in the National Register Scheme and authorize the Director of Archives to allocate them to the States concerned according to their requirements. The Committee decided to arrange at its every meeting a symposium on technical problems concerning archives and manuscripts and to invite to it local custodians and owners of archives and historical manuscripts. A symposium was accordingly arranged at Trivandrum on "The Importance of Private Archives".

Committee on Archival Legislation

The Government of India has accepted some of the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation and is considering others. Chief among those that have been accepted relate to the setting up of zonal repositories and the treatment of records of the defunct Princely States. As recommended by the Committee, no zonal repositories will be set up in the country to house either non-current records of such central agencies as may be located outside Delhi or State records of 'national importance'. No special treatment will be accorded to the records of the defunct Princely States. They are to 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 and which are at present housed in the Regional Office at Bhopal, will be restored to the Madhya Pradesh Government after settling the date of transfer with that Government.

National Register of Records

The Government of India continued to give grants-in-aid to the States participating in the National Register Scheme. Survey of the

to Russia free trade with India, and the correspondence between the Russian hydrographers and the Director of Indian Observatories in the first decade of the 20th century. The Library of the Asian Peoples' Institute at Leningrad contains the travel account of I.P. Minayev who was in India in 1880. The Central State Archives of Literature and Art possesses the papers of Lebedeff, Russian proprietor of a theatre in Calcutta round about 1795. The Scientific Research Institute of Oriental Studies at Tashkent has, among its nearly 16,000 manuscripts, a manuscript on Durrani. In short, the Indian delegates felt that in the U.S.S.R there is a wealth of documentary materials of Indian interest which needs tapping by Indian scholars with a background of Russian history and language.

Andhra Pradesh

Principal accessions of the State Archives at Hyderabad during 1963 included, besides a few files of the erstwhile Hyderabad State Secretariat, some maps, a large number of *siyahs* or marriage certificates, and electoral rolls of Assembly constituencies. These records and some others were checked and arranged, and several *siyahs* listed. The State Archives indexed the names occurring in Shahjahani documents, catalogued about a thousand Mughalia documents, and took in hand the preparation of descriptive lists of important documents in Gangakhed collection, news-letters of Darbar-e-Moalla and rare manuscripts in its own custody. The *Farmans and Sanads of the Deccan Sultans* was published, while the Hand-book to the Records in the State Archives was sent to the press. In addition to this, a list of Prime Ministers of Hyderabad, together with the period for which they held office, from the earliest times to 1948, was prepared and furnished to the Nizamati Atiyat of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad. A complete set of 278 volumes of the official gazette of the former Hyderabad State, 1891-1947, was collected and sent to the Indian Consulate in Geneva for presentation to the library of the European Office of the United Nations on behalf of the Government of India.

The Regional Historical Records Survey Committee, Andhra Pradesh was reconstituted in October 1962. The six Sub-Committees under the Committee, constituted in December 1959, were abolished and, besides increasing the number of its non-official members, the Committee was empowered to set up *ad hoc* regional committees for the survey of records as and when necessary. The reconstituted Committee consisted of 15 members including the Minister for Education and the Director of the State Archives who are its *ex-officio*

President and Secretary respectively. The tenure of office of the members is two years. The Committee held its first meeting at Hyderabad on 8 July 1963 and, among other things, recommended appointment of one Assistant Archivist for Telangana and two Research Scholars—one for Rayalaseema and the other for the Andhra area other than Rayalaseema for the work of collecting material for the compilation of National Register of Records. Since the requisite staff could not be provided, no survey work was done and no records were unearthed by the Committee during the period under review.

Assam

The Secretariat Record Office accessioned during 1963 nearly 15,000 files belonging to the different Departments of the Secretariat, and these were sorted out, made into bundles and kept on the shelves properly arranged. The weeding of records was continued and out of 14,300 'B' and 'C' cases that were examined 10,300 were destroyed. About 250 books were added to the Office library. These were classified and catalogued. The work of preparing a press-list of the records of the divisional commissioners was taken up and nearly 3,200 files were listed. Besides indexing five volumes of pre-1874 records, the Office made steady progress in compiling an amalgamated Index to Government Proceedings for the year 1955.

The Regional Records Survey Committee for Assam at its meeting held on 10 February 1964 discussed ways and means of unearthing documents and manuscripts in private custody in the State, and as a result of one of the resolutions passed by it an appeal was issued to the public in general for communicating information about records in the possession of families and institutions. For want of staff the Committee could not make much progress in the survey of records. Now that a Research Officer has recently been appointed for the purpose, it expects to achieve its objective to its satisfaction.

Bihar

Accessions of the State Central Records Office during 1963 consisted of the Secretariat records of 1959 besides electoral rolls and gazettes. Also records of pre-1901 period were brought from the District Office, Chaibasa to the State Central Records Office. As regards the Library, about 150 new books of historical and general interest were purchased and added thereto. The Office listed letters from the Board of Revenue to the Commissioner of Patna (1859-73), took up the cataloguing and indexing of the Patna Commissioner's English Correspondence.

papers and manuscripts in the possession of private individuals and institutions was undertaken by the State Governments of Bihar, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, and the lists of such papers and manuscripts were furnished by them to the National Archives of India. The lists received from Rajasthan, Punjab, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa were scrutinized in the National Archives during the period under review. The Government of India has yet to implement the recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation in regard to the appointment of suitable staff at the Centre for looking after the work relating to the compilation of the National Register of Records.

Indian History Congress

The Silver Jubilee Session of the Indian History Congress, which was to have been held at Poona in December 1962 but had been postponed due to the breaking out of border conflict with China and the consequent proclamation of a national emergency, was held in the premises of the S. P. College, Poona from 27 to 29 December 1963 under the joint auspices of the Poona University and the Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala. The Congress passed a condolence resolution at the death of its three former General Presidents, Dr. Surendranath Sen, Dr. Radhakumud Mukherjee and Sardar K. M. Panikkar, and of Dr. B. A. Saletore, Prof. Shejwalkar, Prof. C. V. Joshi and Dr. D. C. Ganguli. Prof. H. K. Sherwani of Hyderabad presided over the Session and in his address he dwelt on the theme 'Centres of Indian Culture'. The sectional meetings for Ancient, Medieval and Modern periods of Indian history were presided over by Shri M. N. Deshpande, Dr. V. G. Hatakhar and Dr. Sukumar Bhattacharya respectively, and a number of interesting papers were read at these meetings. An exhibition of manuscripts, rare publications, etc. was organized in connection with the Session.

The Twenty-sixth Session of the Indian History Congress was held at Ranchi from 28 to 30 December 1964 under the auspices of the University of Ranchi. The Session was inaugurated by Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Governor of Bihar and presided over by Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad, Professor and Head of the Department of History, University of Delhi. Meetings of the Ancient, Medieval and Modern Indian History Sections of the Congress were presided over by Dr. Sudhakar Chatterjee, Dr. Ganda Singh and Dr. V. D. Rao respectively. Several papers were read and discussed at these meetings. As usual, an exhibition of historical documents and manuscripts was organized on the occasion of the Session.

Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange Programme relating to Archives

Under the above Programme two eminent Soviet archivists, Mr. V.R. Kopylov, Director of the Central Archives of October Revolution, U.S.S.R. and Mr. G. L. Dmitriev, one of the Directors of the Department of Archives under the Council of Ministers, Uzbek S.S.R., had been delegated to India in November-December 1962 with the object of studying and preparing lists for microfilming of archival documents on the history of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and Indo-Soviet relations, and gaining acquaintance with the methods of preservation of archival materials in tropical conditions. The delegates had visited the principal archival centres and historical manuscript repositories in the country, and acquainted themselves with the archival work being done under the auspices of both the Central and the State Governments.

On reciprocal basis the Government of India sent to the U.S.S.R. in March 1964 a delegation consisting of Shri K. D. Bhargava, Director of Archives, Government of India and Dr. N. K. Sinha, Head of the Department of History, University of Calcutta, to study the organization of archival services in that country and to explore materials bearing on modern Indian history in connection with the project of the National Archives of India for acquisition of microfilm copies of records and manuscripts of Indian interest available in foreign repositories. The delegates visited records repositories and research libraries at Moscow, Leningrad, Erivan, Tashkent and Samarkand, and came across a large number of documents throwing a new light on Indian history. The Central Archives at Moscow was found to possess several documents bearing on Indo-Russian trade relations in the 17th century, with numerous references to the Mughal campaigns in Central Asia. The State Archives at Erivan possesses a document of 340 pages relating to an Armenian's trade activities in India, besides the papers of Nalbandian, the Russian writer and revolutionary who was in Calcutta in 1860 in connection with a court case, and some manuscripts concerning Nadir Shah, Sirajud-Daulah, Mir Qasim and Haider Ali. In the State Archives of October Revolution there are, among other documents, a resumé of Indian politics in 1891, Maharaja Daleep Singh's letter to Czar Alexander III dated 10 May 1887, and the papers of a Russian military attaché in London concerning the revolt of 1857. The record office in Leningrad has a letter written by a partner of Knoop & Co. at Bombay to the Director of the Russian Steam Navigation Company in Odessa. The Central State Archives of Navy at Leningrad has in its custody a Russian officer's report on the route to India and life in Bombay in 1763-64, the imperial decree of 1735 which assured

pendence containing despatches from the Commissioner, Board of Revenue to the Collector of Bihar, and prepared and published *Consolidated Index of the Political Department* (1912-37). Other publications of the State Central Records Office were *Catalogue of Patna Commissioner's Records*, 1813-53 and *Documents on Mahatma Gandhi's Movement in Champaran*, 1917-18. The Office also took in hand the work of preparing a Hand-book of Bhagalpur Revenue Records. Several volumes of correspondence of Bhagalpur Commissioner's office and revenue records of Bhagalpur collectorate were examined in that connection and extracts of important letters taken.

The Regional Records Survey Committee, Bihar was reconstituted in September 1962 consequent on the appointment of Dr. K. K. Datta, its Secretary, as Vice-Chancellor of the Magadh University. A significant feature of the new constitution was the creation of Presidentship in the Committee, which was conferred on Dr. Datta. Besides the President, the reconstituted Committee consisted of 13 members appointed for three years. The members of the Committee put forth efforts to explore, salvage and study public and private records in the State. Among the private collections examined were those belonging to late Ilyas Rahmani of Champabagh, Darbhanga, Nawab Zainullah Hussain Mirza of Khagra, Raja Bikram Sah of Ramnagar, and Fakhr-i-Alam of Bhagalpur. These collections, comprising, besides historical, literary and other manuscripts, *farmans*, *parwanas*, *sanads*, *mahzarnamas*, etc., were listed.

Jammu and Kashmir

There are two repositories under the Archives Department of the State Government—one at Jammu and the other at Srinagar. That at Jammu is located on the ground floor of the old Secretariat building having underground accommodation which provides safety to valuable records. The repository at Srinagar is housed in a spacious stone building in the Rajgarh premises. Besides racks and other fittings, it is provided with galvanized almirahs for proper preservation of maps. The proposal for constructing a new building on scientific lines is under the consideration of the State Government.

During the period under review over 50,000 files were transferred to the State Archives Department by the various Government agencies, and nearly as many files were listed. Some volumes of indexes to the various series of records, sent to the press earlier, were published and work on the scheme of bringing out a volume of Selections from the Persian Records (1724-1899) was continued. The number of publications added to the libraries attached to the two repositories was nearly 20,000.

The State Regional Records Survey Committee continued to function, and it succeeded in locating at certain places some valuable paintings and rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Sharda, Hindi, Arabic and Persian dealing with history, philosophy, religion and literature. On the recommendation of the Committee nearly 450 of these manuscripts were purchased by the Research Department of the State Government. The question of reconstituting the Regional Records Survey Committee is under the consideration of the State Government.

Kerala

The State Archives of Kerala was established in 1963 on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee headed by the Chief Minister. The Education Secretary is the *ex-officio* Director of the State Archives, and he has under him an Assistant Director and a special staff experienced in archival work and expert in deciphering the old scripts of Kerala. The staff has prepared lists of non-current records preserved in the four main repositories in the State—two at Trivandrum and one each at Ernakulam and Kozhikode. The Advisory Committee's proposals for constructing a suitable building furnished with modern facilities for the preservation, maintenance and utilization of old records, and for bringing to the State Archives the entire non-current record collections which are more than ten years old, are under the active consideration of the State Government.

The work of collecting data for the compilation of a National Register of Records, formerly entrusted to the State Regional Records Survey Committee, has now been transferred to the State Archives which has been attending to it under the direct supervision of an expert committee headed by the Education Secretary. Besides the annual grant-in-aid sanctioned by the Central Government, the State Government has provided additional funds for the efficient working of the project.

Madhya Pradesh

The Regional Records Survey Committee, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal in the course of its survey work came across a large number of papers of the Subhedar family. These papers consisting of *parwanas*, *sanads*, correspondence, etc. in Marathi, Hindi and English belong to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and are now in the custody of Shri V. V. Subhedar of Lakshmipura, Sagar. The Committee also unearthed a large number of documents and manuscripts owned by Maharaja Devendra Vijay Sinh of Ajaigarh, Madho Prasad of Katra, Maulvi Aiyaz Ali Khan of Rewah, Sayyid Fateh Ali Khan of Datia, and others.

Lists of these documents were prepared by the Survey Committee and forwarded to the Government of India for the National Register of Records.

Madras

The Madras Record Office accessioned during the period under review the Secretariat records relating to the years 1959 and 1960, certain series of records of the High Court and the Directorate of Agriculture, and records of the Board of Revenue for 1952 and of the Chief Conservator of Forests for 1950-52. It continued the work of listing the Persian records. The *Public Despatches from England*, Vol. 57 (1753-54), the *Catalogue of Books, etc. registered at the Office of the Registrar of Books*, 1901-10, and the *Catalogue of the Madras Record Office Publications* were issued, while the Public Despatches from England, Vol. 58 (1754-55) and the Catalogues of Books, etc. registered at the Office of the Registrar of Books during 1911-15 and 1915-16 were sent to the press.

The work of revising the District Gazetteers was continued by the State Editor and the special staff employed under him for the purpose. The District Gazetteers of Coimbatore and Salem were sent to the press, the Kanyakumari District Gazetteer was made ready for the press, the work of preparing the Tirunelveli District Gazetteer was continued and that of preparing the District Gazetteers of Ramanathapuram, Niligris and Tiruchirapalli was taken in hand.

The State Record Office gave effect to the recommendation of the Archival Legislation Committee for re-integrating with the records of the States concerned the common records of the former British India and Indian States which were kept separate on the eve of the introduction of provincial autonomy.

At the meetings of the Regional Committee for Survey of Historical Records, held on 16 February 1963, 7 September 1963 and 24 February 1964, various items were discussed and the decisions forwarded to the State Government. Suggestions were put forward by the members for enlisting increased public cooperation in the matter of collecting historical records lying in private custody. The importance of frequent radio talks and contribution of articles to leading newspapers by members was also stressed. The Convener of the Committee requested that an extensive tour of the Salem, Chingleput, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts for the purpose of collecting or listing historical documents had brought to light, among others, over 3,000 letters, including those from A. O. Hume, Gandhiji and Dadabhai Naoroji, left behind by Sri Vijayaraghavachari of Salem; original *sanads* of

Tipu Sultan in the possession of Shri D. K. Gurunathan Chettiar of Dharmapuri; and correspondence between the Zamindar of Uthumalai and the Collector of Tirunelveli, 1850-69, in the custody of Shri N. H. Pandian of Veerakeralamputhur. The Convener further stated that over 2,000 documents had been listed for the National Register of Records.

Maharashtra

During 1963 the State Department of Archives at Bombay received for custody 262 rumals of Chitnishi Records, covering the years 1800-1850, from the Raja Saheb of Sangli and 447 files of the period 1722-1859 relating to the Mayor's Court, Recorder's Court, etc. from the High Court, Bombay. It also received over 5,000 publications, including gazettes. A few microfilm copies of Marathi documents in Modi script acquired by it related to Nizamul-Mulk Asaf Jah. Additions to the Departmental Library comprised over 2,000 publications. The Department made steady progress in cataloguing the Commercial Department Diaries. While it published the *Manual of Office Procedure* which is meant for official use only, it made ready for the press the second issue of the *Archives Bulletin*.

The Alienation Office, Poona, besides attending to its normal work of repairing and maintaining its records, arranged subjectwise documents in the Shahu Daftar Rumals Nos. 49 to 56, and completed indexing of 26,796 documents of the Shahu Daftar and 149 documents from the "Papers selected for further Research".

The Kolhapur Record Office, took steps to keep its records in a satisfactory state of preservation. It opened a regular Mending and Repairing Section on a small scale, and repaired some of the Bavda Jagir Records and Nivadi Records. It also listed and numbered 13,874 documents contained in rumal Nos. 36-46 among the Kagal Nagadi Records, and indexed 10,700 documents included in rumal Nos. 1883 of the Nivadi Records.

The State Board for Historical Records and Ancient Monuments was reconstituted in July 1963 and renamed Maharashtra State Board for Archives and Archaeology. The first meeting of the reconstituted Board was held in Bombay on 2 September 1963. Among the resolutions passed at the meeting were those relating to the acquisition of antiquities in the possession of Shri Lamture, preservation of wall paintings at different places in the State, and survey of the Markinda fort.

As a result of the survey conducted on behalf of the State Board some *farmans* throwing light on the family of Netaji Palkar and three manuscripts in Marathi entitled "Shri Krishna Dayarnavache Shishya",

"Shri Kaustubha" and "Mukundraj Shishya" were discovered by some of its members during their tour in Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Mysore

The Regional Committee for the Survey of Historical Records, Mysore carried on search for documents and manuscripts in private custody and came across large collections at some places, chief among them being the records in the Phalamar math, Udipi. These records belong to the period 1810-60 and throw light on the social, political and economic conditions in South Kanara. Most of the documents deal with financial transactions and are signed by the revenue or judicial authorities of the district. There is also among these records a register containing copies of the orders issued by Virbhadrā Nayaka and other Keladi kings, Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan, Krishna Raja Wodeyar, etc. as also copies of the letters written to these rulers by the pontiffs of the various maths of Udipi in regard to certain affairs of the Krishna temple. Other records surveyed and listed by the Committee include those located at Arakalgud and in the Jogi math and in the palace at Vittal.

Orissa

The Orissa State Archives at Bhubaneswar, previously under the control of the Director of Public Instruction, was placed under the control of the Director of the newly created Cultural Affairs Department with effect from 3 November 1962 and the designation of the head of the State Archives changed from Curator to Assistant Director of Archives.

While no records worth mentioning were accessioned by the State Archives during 1962-63, 140 rare and valuable books acquired mostly by purchase were added to the Archives Library. On the publication side, the State Archives compiled Vol. IV of the Guide to Orissan Records and sent the same to the press. It also took in hand the collection of data relating to the evolution of different administrative departments under the early British rule.

Punjab

Owing to the non-availability of suitable accommodation the Punjab State Archives could not acquire a large bulk of non-current records during 1963, the only noteworthy acquisition worth mentioning being 62 files pertaining to the defunct Narendra Guards, Patiala. The work of acquiring microfilm copies of records having a bearing on the history of Northern India in general and Punjab in particular was, however, continued though only six reels covering the years 1843-45

could be acquired. Lack of microfilming facilities prevented the State Archives from making satisfactory progress in this work. The State Archives also acquired by purchase about 50 manuscripts and 115 rare books of historical and literary value. Most of these books and manuscripts came to light in the course of survey of historical records in the Patiala district. Another important acquisition consisted of 24 miniature paintings, on ivory, of certain historical personages. About 2,000 books, periodicals and other publications were added to the reference Library of the State Archives. Besides checking and arranging certain series of records, the State Archives listed a number of files of the erstwhile States of Patiala, Nabha, Nalagarh and Malerkotla as well as those of the Chamber of Princes, and indexed the Dharmarth Records of the former Patiala State and PEPSU. To organize and encourage research work and to afford necessary facilities to research scholars a Research Section was established in the State Archives.

Under the scheme sponsored by the Government of India for the compilation of a National Register of Records, a survey of records was carried out by the State Regional Records Survey Committee in the districts of Patiala, Kangra, Sangrur, Bhatinda, Mahendergarh, Ambala, Jullundur and Ferozepore, and over 1,800 rare books, manuscripts and documents were unearthed and those of archival value listed. The documents, most of which are *sanads*, *parwanas*, *farmans*, *muralsajats*, etc., throw light on the political conditions in the Kangra District during the 'Mutiny', early incursions of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the cis-Sutlej territories, relations between the chiefs of the cis-Sutlej States and the English, land revenue system in Nabha, etc.

Rajasthan

The Rajasthan State Archives continued to implement the State Government's decision to centralize records of permanent value by shifting them from the various district repositories to the central repository at Bikaner. During 1963-64 the examination and weeding of records in most of the district repositories were completed and the records found fit for permanent retention brought to Bikaner. Consequent on the shifting of these records the number of district repositories stood reduced from twenty to five. The Department completed the sorting and arranging of a large bulk of these records. To provide adequate storage space in the State Archives the State Government had already started the construction of a new block on the western side of the main building. The construction work neared completion during the period under review. Construction was, however, completed

of a new Research and Preservation wing for which funds had earlier been sanctioned by the State Government with a view to providing modern amenities and better facilities to the scholars visiting the State Archives in connection with their research work.

The State Archives Department, besides attending to its normal duties of arranging, listing and repairing records, took in hand the work of preparing a Descriptive List of Jaipur Records and made good progress therein. The work of preparing a comprehensive history of Rajasthan entitled "Rajasthan through the Ages" also made satisfactory progress, and the first volume was sent to the press. In addition to this, the Department completed the collection and collation of all available material concerning late Shri Jai Narain Vyas with a view to preparing a commemoration volume on his life.

The State Archives pursued with vigour the work of surveying historical documents, manuscripts and paintings in private custody in the State. It drew up reports covering detailed descriptive lists of the materials traced, and periodically submitted them to the Government of India for the National Register of Records. Noteworthy among the records unearthed are those in the personal custody of the Maharaja of Bikaner relating to the complaints lodged by certain jagirdars of the then princely State of Bikaner against the Bikaner Durbar. These records, actually forming part of the Residency records, appear to have been handed over to the Maharaja by the British Resident on the lapse of paramountcy in 1947. Another collection of historical documents was located at Bilara in the custody of the Dewan of the place. Some of these documents belong to the reign of Aurangzeb and are of historical value, particularly the *bahis* which contain important historical information not available elsewhere. Also worthy of mention are the files belonging to the Praja Mandal Units in the erstwhile princely States of Sirohi and Jodhpur. They reflect the national aspiration of the people of the places concerned and their contribution to the freedom movement. These files are now in the custody of the District Congress Committees working in those areas.

Uttar Pradesh

There were hardly any fresh accessions of records in the State Archives during 1963-64 due to paucity of storage space. The work of preparing inventories, card catalogues, etc. was, however, continued and satisfactory progress made therein. Collection of information for inclusion in the National Register of Records was also continued. As a result of the survey of several places, 14 manuscripts and 175 documents were salvaged.

The State Regional Records Survey Committee examined a number of manuscripts in private custody but found none of them worthy of acquisition.

West Bengal

The West Bengal State Archives continued to function during 1963 as a branch of the Education Department of the State Government. Pending the appointment of Director of Archives, the Assistant Director of Archives held overall charge of the State Archives. The Keeper of the Records was redesignated as the Keeper of the Records (Current), and a new post of the Keeper of the Records (Historical) was created. The Keeper of the Records (Current) held charge of the muniment rooms at the Writers' Buildings where records from 1902 onwards are preserved, while the other Keeper was placed in charge of the muniment rooms at 6, Bhowani Dutt Lane where pre-1902 records are housed.

The records accessioned by the State Archives comprised 7,309 files belonging to certain departments of the West Bengal Secretariat and covering the period 1952-55. These records were checked, arranged and placed on the shelves. The files of the various departments of the Secretariat for the year 1935 were appraised and 1,455 files considered unworthy of retention were marked for destruction.

INTERNATIONAL

International Federation for Documentation

The Twenty-ninth Conference of the International Federation for Documentation was held at Stockholm, Sweden from 30 September to 6 October 1963. It was attended by about 150 representatives from 27 countries and 6 international organizations. The first part of the Conference was devoted to meetings of 14 study committees on such technical subjects as medical documentation, classification research, mechanized storage and retrieval of information, etc. The second part included sessions of the General Assembly of the FID and public meetings on regional cooperation in documentation, particularly in Scandinavian countries.

The Thirtieth Conference of the Federation, organized by the General Secretariat of FID, took place in Scheveningen, The Hague, from 21 to 26 September 1964. Over 100 experts from 27 countries and 9 delegates from 7 international organizations attended the meetings. The General Assembly of the Federation, after approving the budgets for 1965 and 1966 and transacting other business, re-elected Dr. Adkinson

as President of FID for the term 1966-68. Thereafter study committees met for discussion of technical aspects in such fields as linguistic problems, mechanized storage and retrieval, training of documentalists, technical information for industry and the Universal Decimal Classification for chemistry, agriculture, medicine and transport engineering.

International Association of Documentalists

An International Association of Documentalists has recently been established with its temporary headquarters in Paris and Dr. J. Samain as the Secretary-General. The Association's aims include the development of the teaching of documentary techniques; study of problems relating to the presentation of publications; and exchange of documentalists between national centres.

Anglo-American Conference of Historians

The Thirty-sixth Anglo-American Conference of Historians met at the Institute of Historical Research, London from 11 to 13 July 1963. Prof. Brand presided over the opening session at which Prof. Hurstfield spoke on 'The Age of Political Corruption'. At the concluding general meeting, Prof. J. H. Franklin spoke on 'The Military Occupation of the South'. Among the subjects on which papers were read at the various sectional meetings and lively and learned discussions held, mention may be made of 'The Rise of Disraeli', by R. W. Blake; 'The Historical Interest of the Alfredian Translations', by Prof. Whitelock; 'British Policy towards the United States, 1783-93', by Prof. C. R. Ritcheson; 'Elizabethan Separatism', by Prof. Carlson; 'The Union of the Crowns', by Prof. D. Willson; 'The Expansion of New Monastic Orders, c. 1050-1150', by J. C. Dickinson; 'The Education of the Nobility in Later Medieval England', by K. B. MacFarlane; 'Learning and Heresy in the Later Middle Ages', by Dr. G. Leff; 'Bonaparte at Boulogne', by Prof. R. G. Glover; and 'British Railroad Builders along the Lower Danube, 1856-69', by Dr. J. H. Jensen.

The Thirty-seventh Anglo-American Conference of Historians was held at the University of London on 9, 10 and 11 July 1964. There were two general meetings and ten sectional meetings, held either in the Beveridge Hall of the Senate House or in the England Room at the Institute of Historical Research. The opening meeting was addressed by Mr. G. C. Morris on the subject of 'Shakespeare's Politics', with the Right Honourable J. Enoch Powell, M.P., in the chair. At the closing meeting, over which Prof. R.A. Humphreys presided, Prof. C. L. Mowat read a paper on 'War's Transformations: the Experience of Britain and

the United States in the First World War'. The various sections of the Conference heard papers on the following subjects: 'Some Problems of Anglo-Saxon Diplomatic', by Dr. P. T. Chaplais; 'Who were farming the English Domesnes at the End of the Middle Ages?', by Prof. F.R.H. Du Boulay; 'The Conquest of Violence in Early Modern England', by Prof. L. Stone; 'Charles II and the Popish Plot', by Prof. W.G. Simon; 'Town Planning in Bloomsbury, 1776-1900', by Dr. D. J. Olsen; 'The Conservative Character and Radical Consequences of the American Revolution', by Prof. W. H. Nelson; 'A Tour of Crotchet Castle: the Dissemination of Useful Knowledge at Small Expense', by Prof. C. F. Mullet; 'British Electoral Geography, 1885-1910', by Dr. Henry Pelling; 'Appeasement—the Rise of a Revisionist School', by Mr. D. C. Watt; and 'The Public Records, the Historian, the National Interest and Official Policy', by Mr. H. G. Nicholas. On the occasion of the Conference there was the customary exhibition of historical works published in the United Kingdom during the previous twelve months.

International Conference on Asian History

An International Conference on Asian History was held at the University of Hong Kong from 31 August to 5 September 1964. It was sponsored by the International Association of Historians of Asia (Philippines), International Conference of South East Asian Historians (Malaysia), Far Eastern Pre-History Association, and Indian History Congress. The Organizing Committee had for its Chairman Prof. Brian Harrison of the Department of History, University of Hong Kong. More than a hundred delegates from all over Asia and other parts of the world attended the Conference, and about sixty papers on different aspects of the history of Asia were read and discussed. Dr. S. P. Sen, one of the representatives of the Indian History Congress at the Conference proposed at the Business Meeting that holding occasional and disconnected International Conferences on Asian History should be replaced by setting up a permanent Asian organization which would call such conferences at regular intervals. The proposal is expected to be given serious consideration at the next conference to be held at Kuala Lumpur in 1967.

UNESCO's Mobile Microfilm Unit in the U.A.R.

Under its technical aid programme the UNESCO sent its Mobile Microfilm Unit to Cairo (U.A.R.) in February 1963. The Unit stayed there for 15 months to carry out the following work: (i) to microfilm valuable manuscripts, records, printed books, etc. in order to preserve them and make them available for students and research workers;

(ii) to train Egyptians in microfilm techniques; (iii) to suggest to the national authorities the installation or improvement of microfilm services in the country; and (iv) to make a list of microfilmed materials in order to inform people of what has been photographed in the U.A.R.

The manuscripts to be reproduced were selected in the Egyptian Library and in the University of Al-Azhar, and the series microfilmed were : A (Azhar), B (Library), and C (Private collections deposited in the Egyptian Library). Selection of the manuscripts was done on the basis of their value and antiquity in all fields of cultural interest. The Unit microfilmed 2,028 manuscripts totalling more than 900,000 pages on 611 rolls of negative film. A mimeographed list of all the manuscripts that were microfilmed is now available in the National Library at Cairo.

UNITED KINGDOM

Public Record Office

During 1962 records covering some 9,000 feet were received in the Public Record Office, London for permanent preservation. The new accessions included the wills of 28 notable persons (including Drake, Shakespeare and Nelson) received for custody from the Principal Probate Registry, and the census returns for 1861 from the General Register Office. The total foot-run of records in the custody of the Office at the end of the year was about 250,000. Of this two-fifths was at Ashridge and consisted in the main of records not yet open under the 50-year rule.

Thirty-five departments made use of the intermediate repositories at Hayes and Yeading for the storage of records which had passed out of current administrative use and for sorting them into those to be destroyed and those to be selected for permanent preservation. The foot-run occupied at the end of the year was about 630,000. Besides preparing lists of certain classes of records, the Public Record Office published during the year the *Calendar of Liberate Rolls*, Vol. V (1260-67), *Curia Regis Rolls*, Vol. XIV (1230-32), and *Calendar of Treasury Books*, Vol. XXXII, Part I (1718). A revised edition of the *Guide for Departmental Officers*, and a new edition of the *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office** in two volumes were published. The Office proposes to produce a series of hand-books to help users to find their way among certain classes of records; the first will be a guide to the records of the Colonial Office and Dominions Office, and this will be followed by a catalogue of maps among the public records relating to the British Isles, and a list of Cabinet papers, 1880-1914.

*A review of the *Guide* appears elsewhere in the issue.

The Office has begun a new programme of publishing original public records on 3×5-inch micro-opaque cards. The card series so far brought out under this programme are : *Privy Council Registers, Charles I, June 1631-May 1937*, and *Treasury Minute Books, 1719-22 and 1725-28*. The series expected to be published soon will cover selected materials from Confidential Prints—volumes in the Foreign Office and Colonial Office records in which were printed the principal dispatches and proceedings relating to particular incidents or negotiations. Also to be put on cards are certain unpublished search-room lists, including the entire Colonial Office class list and a list of the protocols of treaties among the Foreign Office records, 1778-1902. If these publications prove successful, and if the demand is sufficient, micro-opaque cards will be issued for such series as the Secretary of State's out-letter books (domestic and foreign) for the eighteenth century; minutes of the Treasury and Board of Trade from the mid-eighteenth century onwards; and further volumes of Confidential Prints and search-room lists.

Advisory Council on Public Records

The Advisory Council on Public Records met four times during 1962, on 1 March, 21 June, 10 October and 13 December. The specialist Committee on Publications appointed by the Council to advise it on publication policy, held meetings on 10 January, 14 May and 16 July under the chairmanship of Sir Goronwy Edwards. There was also a meeting of a small sub-committee which examined modern photocopying methods in relation to publications.

The Council considered at its meetings the proposals which certain departments had made for excluding certain records from the 50-year rule and as a result of the advice tendered by it from time to time, four Instruments were signed during the year, withholding public access to sixteen classes of records until they are 100 years old and granting access to two other classes when they are five years old. The Council also considered another aspect of access, namely, the question of places of deposit of public records, other than the Public Record Office. It felt that the policy of unified control advocated by the Grigg Committee might be endangered by the appointment of a number of departmental record offices. It therefore suggested that applications from departments and other bodies for being appointed as places of deposit for their own records be viewed with caution.

The Publications Committee of the Advisory Council at its meeting held on 10 January 1962 decided to undertake a detailed survey of record publications with a view to finding out whether the resources

of the Public Record Office were being used in the ways most profitable for historical scholarship. To this end ten informal working parties were set up, each being led by a member of the Committee. After the survey was complete it was considered by the Committee at a meeting on 14 May and, as a result, the Keeper of Public Records undertook to prepare a draft five-year publications programme. On 16 July the Committee examined the programme and approved it on the understanding that it would meet again after about two years and, in the light of the progress made till then, consider the advisability of continuing the programme.

House of Lords Record Office

In 1963 the records of Parliament were re-installed in the Victoria Tower the reconstruction of which, begun in 1948, concluded in November 1962 when the entire Tower was handed back to the Record Office for use. The House of Lords Record Office, like so many other Record Offices in England, has in recent years been visited by rapidly increasing number of students. In 1963-64 these reached the highest total since the Office was established. A considerable percentage of students was engaged in historical research at an advanced level, and their work concerned the most diverse matters, often far removed from the history of Parliament itself. The immediate result of this development was increased pressure on the staff from day to day, and inevitable distraction from long-term projects such as the preparation of further volumes of the *Calendar of Manuscripts* and of a general guide to the records. However, the Office made appreciable progress in certain other aspects of routine work, notably in the physical repair of documents, and in the accessioning and listing of recent deposits.

The records received by the Office for preservation during the period under review include, among others, the Acts of Parliament and Measures, 1961-62; Public Bills Files, 1961-63; Reports of the Committee on Public Petitions, 1945-62; Westminster Munitions Factory records, 1942-45; Speeches of Sir Walter Mildmay, 1570-93; Grant of Arms to the City of Westminster, 1601; and additional personal and official papers of Sir John Shaw-Lefevre, 1782-1847.

British Museum

Among the significant additions to the collections of manuscripts in the Museum during 1963-64 is a group of fifteen original deeds, ranging in date from 1420 to 1467, relating to the family of Caxton, of Little Wrattling in Suffolk. The earliest of the deeds, executed in 1420, relates to

the acquisition of the manor of Little Wrattling by Philip Caxton and his wife. This group of documents, throwing as it does valuable light on one branch of the Caxton family, constitutes a major addition to our knowledge of its ramifications in the fifteenth century, and to this extent, brings us one step nearer to the solution of that fascinating problem, the antecedents of the first English printer. Some other noteworthy accessions consist of : the papers of the Fox and allied families; diary of Sir William Trumbull, diplomatist, 1685-91; correspondence of Sir William Hamilton, British envoy at Naples, 1766-1800; letters of Field-Marshal Sir Charles Henry Brownlow, mostly relating to campaigns on the North-West Frontier, 1854-76; maps and sketches of the First Afghan War; and Correspondence of Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, President of the League of Nations, 1923-45.

The Trustees of the British Museum have been reconsidering their policy with regard to the withholding from public use of papers forming part of their collections which are of possible value to students. Generally speaking, these papers are those of modern statesmen, diplomats and other persons who have taken part in Government service or public life. Until recently they were normally reserved for 50 years from the dates of their creation. It has now been decided to observe the following rules :

- (i) Where the donor of a collection makes his own stipulations as to restriction of access and the Trustees accept or have accepted the collection subject to those stipulations, the stipulations will be observed ; and
- (ii) Papers which are clearly identifiable by their marking as being the property of H.M. Government will be reserved under the existing 50-year rule as applied to Departmental papers. This restriction would be reviewed if there was any change in the current Departmental practice.

Bodleian Library

The Bodleian Library acquired during the period under review several manuscripts, noteworthy among them being the papers of Reverend William Gilpin (1724-1804) containing his correspondence with William Mason, Mary Hartley and other contemporaries and the manuscripts of nearly all his printed works, including the original illustrated notebooks, drafts, and final versions of his observations on landscape scenery made on sketching tours of Great Britain; the Kenneth Grahame Papers which include a large number of letters and several short essays and addresses; and the correspondence of Mary Monica and Robert Bridges with Edward Johnston (1899-1920).

The Library has begun publishing thousands of slides and filmstrips photographed in colour direct from original illuminated manuscripts. Apart from art history, classical and medieval literature, religious knowledge and book production, these cover such diverse subjects as music and dancing, medicine and astronomy, costume and calligraphy, etc. Some comprise complete series of all the pictures in a single volume, while others are selected with the aid of a large subject index to illustrate some single topic like sports and pastimes. Brief descriptive notes accompany most filmstrips. These films give direct contact with visual aids produced by specialists in the past and illustrate life five centuries ago and more. This scheme makes it possible to avoid much handling of originals while at the same time allows wider public a sight of medieval pictures, in most cases never hitherto published.

John Rylands Library

Among the recent additions to the Manuscripts Department of the Library is a small collection of letters written to the Hon. Henry Edward Fox, later 4th and last Lord Holland, by Margaret, Countess Compton, later Marchioness of Northampton. Although only forty in number they comprise over 160 pages and date from October 1825 to August 1829. Apart from the personal side, their value is mainly social and literary. Another noteworthy acquisition of the Library is a further portion of the collection of records of the old Lancashire family of Byrom. The additional documents cover the years 1659-1733 and relate mainly to Joseph Byrom.

The recent publications of the Library include, among several others, *Studies in the Late Egyptian Documents Preserved in the John Rylands Library* by E. A. E. Reymond, Lecturer in Coptic Studies in the University of Manchester.

On the occasion of the Second International Conference of Ethiopic Studies which was held in Manchester from 8 to 11 July 1963 under the patronage of H. I. M. the Emperor of Ethiopia, the Library arranged a special exhibition of its Ethiopic manuscripts and printed books. The exhibits remained on display throughout July and August and most of September.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

National Archives and Records Service

Noteworthy accessions of the National Archives and Records Service during 1963-64 were: papers and photographs assembled by

David Lagge Brainard during his service with the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition to the Arctic and his subsequent military service, 1881-1918; records of the Army War College, 1904-20; minutes of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, 1934-61; original or certified copies of treaties and other international agreements of the United States, 1957-58 and 1961-62; records of the National Forest Reservation Commission, 1911-52, relating to the acquisition of lands for national forests in eastern United States; Army Air Force Combat Films relating to the activities of the AAF during World War II; correspondence, reports and claims files relating to fiscal relationships of the United States with other countries, 1917-41; records of the Eighty-fifth Congress of the United States House of Representatives, including records of standing and select committees; microfilm copies of captured records of the German Foreign Ministry, 1940-41; copy of the Imperial Japanese Government's declaration of war on the United States and Great Britain, 1941, etc.

The National Archives has been compiling preliminary inventories of the materials in some 350 record groups in which its holdings have been divided. Several such inventories giving an overall picture of these materials have been issued. Among those published during the period under review mention may be made of: *Records of the Supreme Court of the United States*; *Records of the National Board of Health*; *Records Relating to U. S. Claims Against the Central Powers*; *Records of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry*; *Records of the Office of Territories*; *Records of the Smaller War Plants Corporation*; and *Records of the Commissioner of Railroads*.

The National Archives has recently assumed the responsibility of preparing Guides to German Records Microfilmed at Alexandria, Va., as part of its programme of facilitating the use of records in its custody. Previously the guides used to be prepared by the Committee for the Study of War Documents of the American Historical Association.

National Historical Publications Commission

At its meeting held at the National Archives building on 10-11 March 1964 the National Historical Publications Commission decided to sponsor the preparation of a Guide to Archival and Manuscript Sources in the United States Relating to Africa as proposed by the African Studies Association and paralleling a series of similar guides for African materials in European countries initiated by the International Council on Archives. The Commission also decided to employ as editor of the

Territorial Papers Series a specialist in the history of the American West who may complete the unfinished volumes relating to the territory of Wisconsin, continue with the plans to publish volumes for the next three territories, *i.e.*, Iowa, Minnesota and Oregon, and submit a reconsidered plan in respect of the papers of all subsequent territories. Besides the above, the Commission approved of Donald Jackson's proposal to assemble, edit and publish the documents relating to the two exploratory expeditions led by Gen. Zebulon M. Pike.

The United States Government has recently enacted legislation authorizing the National Historical Publications Commission to make grants to aid in the arrangement, description and publication of documentary source materials significant to the history of the United States. The Commission is now seeking appropriations that will permit it to implement this authorization.

Library of Congress

During 1963-64 the Library of Congress acquired, among other papers, 58 letters written by Andrew Jackson to Amos Kendall, Postmaster General under President Jackson and Van Buren, between 1827 and 1845, as also the papers of Robert R. Hitt, Member of Congress from Illinois, 1882-1906, of George Washington Lay, Representative from New York, 1833-37, and of Oswald Veblen (1880-1960), American mathematician of the Institute for Advanced Study. Another acquisition of the Library consisted of some 300 papers presented by William Weber Coblentz as an addition to the biographical material he gave to the Library in 1952. These papers include, besides his correspondence, a diary kept by him during a solar eclipse expedition to Sumatra in 1926, notebooks on stellar and planetary radiation and on stellar radiometry. The Library also acquired a manuscript book of flute tunes composed in the early nineteenth century and reflecting musical tastes, social customs, military events and even world politics. Also worthy of mention is Thomas Jefferson's own copy, in its original boards, of Volume VI, Part I, of the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, received as a gift from the Houghton Library at Harvard University. President Jefferson's secret marks of identification are available at two places therein. This copy was probably among those items of his library which were sold in 1829.

The Library has recently published the second issue of the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* in two volumes. The publication, like its first issue, is of great use to researchers on any aspect of American life. Covering as it does a number of repositories for which

there are no published guides, the catalogue yields data about many collections not described elsewhere.

Herbert Hoover Library

Dedication ceremony of the Herbert Hoover Library was performed at West Branch, Iowa on 10 August 1962, the 88th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Hoover. Some of the distinguished participants in the ceremony, besides Mr. Hoover himself, were Harry S. Truman, former President and Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States. Mr. Hoover had offered his public papers and related materials to the United States as a gift in December 1960, and about the same time the Herbert Hoover Birth-place Foundation, Inc., which had raised funds for and supervised the construction of the Library, had offered the building, equipment and grounds to the Federal Government, also as a gift. Acceptance of these gifts had been authorized by the Congress in March 1962.

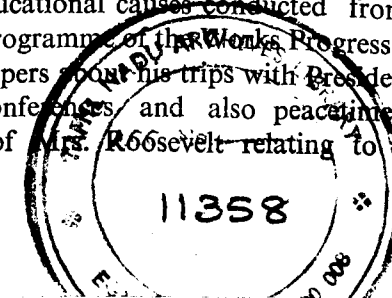
The Library will house and make available for research the papers and other historical materials of Mr. Hoover, including his papers as Secretary of Commerce, as President of the United States, as Chairman of the First and Second Commissions on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, and as a participant in other activities. It will not contain, however, his notable collection of "war and peace" documents, which he earlier gave to Leland Stanford University at Palo Alto in California.

A contract has recently been let for the construction of an addition to the Library. Financed by friends and admirers of Mr. Hoover, the addition will include an auditorium, a research room, stacks, a photographic laboratory and offices. When the addition is completed, the original structure will be devoted almost exclusively to museum displays. The museum has been open since the date of dedication of the Library.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

The Library has acquired, among other papers, an important collection of papers relating to Isador Lubin's government service including that as U. S. Commissioner of Labour Statistics; correspondence, plans and reports relating to the educational causes conducted from 1933 to 1943 by the Workers Service Programme of the Works Progress Administration; Admiral McIntire's papers about his trips with President Roosevelt to the World War II conferences, and also peacetime vacation sea voyages; personal letters of Mrs. Roosevelt relating to her early

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married life; a number of telegrams and letters received from Roosevelt by his literary agent George T. Bye during 1935-45; and letters shedding new light on Roosevelt's tradition-breaking air trip from Albany to Chicago to receive the Democratic Party presidential nomination in July 1932. The motion picture films accessioned by the Library include those showing Mrs. Roosevelt's activities during the years 1943-56. Among the tape recordings acquired are those of speeches of Mrs. Roosevelt and interviews and press conferences held by her during the last few years of her life.

The Library building is going to have new wings to be known as the Eleanor Roosevelt wings which are being built as a memorial to Mrs. Roosevelt and will house her collection of personal papers, art objects, photographs and memorabilia.

Harry S. Truman Library

Accessions of the Library during 1963-64 include papers of David D. Lloyd, Stephen J. Spingarn and David H. Stowe, Administrative Assistants to President Truman; Comdr. William M. Rigdon, Assistant Naval Aide to the President; John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury; Michael J. Galvin, Under Secretary of Labour; Joel D. Wolfsohn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; W. John Kenney, Under Secretary of the Navy and Deputy Director for Mutual Security; Frederick J. Lawton, Director of the Bureau of the Budget; Mon C. Wallgren, Chairman of the Federal Power Commission; Harry J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics; Robert E. Freer, member of the Federal Trade Commission; Frieda Hennock, member of the Federal Communications Commission; Lou Holland, an associate of President Truman; and Maj. Gen. Ralph E. Truman, the former President's cousin and Commanding General of the 35th Division. The Library also acquired White House files of Matthew J. Connelly; records of the Committee for the Marshal Plan, 1947-51; two large clipping files of the Democratic National Committee; a collection of newspaper photographs of Mr. Truman, 1927-45; and photographs relating to the Potsdam Conference in 1945 and to the 35th Division.

The Library has published some issues of the *Research Newsletters* which provide information as to major developments in the acquisition and processing of materials, and research that is being done at the Library.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

Principal accessions of the Library during the period under review consist of the papers of J. Stewart Bragdon, Special Assistant to the Presi-

dent; Neil H. McElroy, Secretary of Defence; James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labour; Maurice H. Stans, Deputy Postmaster General; Ralph A. Tudor, Under Secretary of the Department of the Interior; W. Randolph Burgess, deputy to the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury; and Frederick H. Mueller, Assistant Secretary of Commerce. The Library continued its programme of acquiring from other repositories microfilm copies of documents relating to the military history of World War II and began a programme of oral history interviews with boyhood associates of General Eisenhower.

John F. Kennedy Library

A few months after assuming office President John F. Kennedy had begun to plan a presidential library for his administration. It was his wish that the library be located close to Harvard University and have some affiliation with that institution. Shortly before his death he had tentatively selected a site for the library on land donated by the University along the Charles river. A corporation has now been formed to raise the necessary funds and to erect the library building. There will be deposited not only the classes of materials that have been placed in other presidential libraries (i.e., the papers of the President and the personal papers of his friends and associates and of members of his family) but also microfilm copies of those segments of records of each Government agency that reveal ideas, activities and interests of President Kennedy and his immediate staff and their influence on the work of the agency, as well as other Government records that are concerned with the major issues of the Kennedy period. An oral history programme envisaging interviews with important officials of the Kennedy Administration, as well as with the late President's friends, will also be undertaken.

North Carolina Department of Archives and History

Main accessions of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History during 1963-64 include a microfilm copy of the account book of William Hooper for 1780-83; six manuscript Civil War military maps; and a variety of private collections, genealogical materials, and microfilm copies of county records and church records.

The Department has brought out *Records Management Handbook: Files and Filing* which covers just one area of the field of records management and is intended to assist agency personnel in filing and finding their records.

The North Carolina Records Project has been taken over by the State Department of Archives and History with effect from 1 January 1964 on the dissolution of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission. The main objective of the Project is to locate all extant documents related to colonial North Carolina and to prepare a detailed inventory describing each document and giving its location. Approximately 200,000 manuscript pages of colonial records in repositories in North Carolina have already been examined and inventoried. Inventory is now being prepared of the colonial court records in the State Department of Archives and History. A search for North Carolina colonial records outside the State is also under way. After the necessary information has been obtained, photocopies of records outside North Carolina will be procured for manuscript repositories in the State. The more important documents will be published in a new series of North Carolina colonial records.

GHANA

National Archives of Ghana

Besides attending to its normal work of accessioning, classifying and repairing records and preparing their disposal schedules, the National Archives of Ghana at Accra added to its pictorial collection, during 1963, the Tema Harbour progress photographs, the photograph of a nugget of diamond and an address presented to Osagyefo, the President, by the Ghana Chamber of Mines on 9 October 1962, and 18 portraits of past Governors of the former Gold Coast for the period 1830-1957. The noteworthy private papers acquired by the National Archives consisted of records of the Manya Krobo Traditional Council covering the period 1896-1952, correspondence between J. P. Allotey Hammond of Cape Coast and the Cape Coast Municipal Council from 1936 to 1957, and a manuscript copy of the petition to the British House of Commons by the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society in 1935.

PRESERVATION AND PHOTODUPLICATION

Rotomatic Microfilmer

The Recordak Corporation, Rochester, New York, has made a compact Rotomatic Microfilmer, Model RR-1, which is especially designed for high-speed microfilming of continuous forms from 6 to 15 inches wide. Its operating speed is 183 linear feet a minute with a fixed reduction ratio of 24:1 on 16 mm. film.

Dry Photocopying Machines

Photocopying machines said to represent new technology in completely dry photocopying has been announced by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. The machines operate by the 'Dual Spectrum' process derived from the use of two segments of the electromagnetic spectrum—combining photographic type exposure with the advantages of completely dry development. They provide permanent copies of all types of documents, including bound volumes, without the need for liquids or chemicals. These Dry Photo-Copiers are available in two models, the 107 office model and the 107 portable model.

Document Reader-Printer

The Document Reader-Printer, Marge II, designed as a 'portable dark-room' for immediate production of black and white enlargements from 16 mm. or 35 mm. microfilm, is manufactured by Charles Burning Company, Inc. (U.S.A.). The unit provides permanent silver print enlargements automatically, and delivers a print cut to 8 × 11" size which matches perfectly the image centred on the Documat viewing screen. The Documat also serves independently as a viewer. Provision is made for variable magnification ratios with a choice of five interchangeable lenses. An adjustable condenser with simple knob control varies the diameter of the field of illumination when lenses are changed.

Tab-Tronic Recorder

The Bell & Howell Co. (U.S.A.) has introduced an automatic microfilm machine, Tab-Tronic Recorder, Model 575, to reproduce continuous forms from any punchcard tabulator or high-speed computer printer without separating the fan-folded sections. It operates at 75 linear feet a minute.

BOOK REVIEWS

British Attitudes Towards India, 1784-1858 by George D. Bearce (Oxford University Press, 1961; pp. 315).

IN highlighting the social values and the philosophical preconceptions which determined the British image of India, and which influenced British policy towards India during the crucial decades that intervened between the Regulating Act of 1773 and the upsurge of 1857, Professor Bearce has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the British rule in India. He has simultaneously deepened our insight into the motivations and objectives of the British government in India. In its attempt to analyse the intellectual presuppositions of Englishmen, philosophers or statesmen, administrators or missionaries, men of action or of poetic imagination, who directly or indirectly influenced the processes of government in India, Bearce's monograph does not stand in isolation; for it follows the trail blazed by Eric Stokes' brilliant critique, *The English Utilitarians And India*. There is also Raghavan Iyer's essay in scepticism, *Utilitarianism And All That*, which may well be recommended as a corrective to any one who finds himself overwhelmed by the burden of philosophical commitment which shaped British attitudes and policies towards India.

An assumption basic to British speculation on India was the uniqueness of the political ties between the two countries. Conservatives like Burke, radicals like James Mill, evangelicals like Grant, romantics like Elphinstone, liberals like Macaulay and imperialists like Dalhousie were struck as much by the enormous responsibility as by the great opportunity which control over the destiny of India placed in the hands of statesmen and politicians in Britain. But while they agreed upon the uniqueness of the political relationship between India and Britain, their unanimity on this score formed a point of departure for Englishmen subscribing to different political philosophies and inspired by conflicting conceptions of social action. Burke, for instance, looked upon India as a country with a social organization, and with principles of morality peculiarly her own. From his vision of India stemmed his condemnation of administrators whose actions, as Burke construed them, were designed to undermine the organization and the morality of the community. Opposed to Burke stood Mill and the radicals, who ranked India as wholly barbarian on the (utilitarian) scale of values, and who therefore sought to put it on the path to progress and prosperity through a programme of legislative reform. Between the utilitarian criterion of government by efficiency alone, and the standpoint of liberals like Macaulay or

imperialists like Dalhousie, the difference was one of degree rather than that of kind. But the evangelicals articulated a 'mood' quite different from that of other Englishmen. The burden of their argument possessed a devastating simplicity. If God in His wisdom had put India under the control of Britain, then who could deny that the *ultimate purpose* of the British rule was to spread the light of the Gospel among the pagan peoples of India?

All this and much more Professor Bearce presents to the reader with an analytical skill and a narrative power that evoke the admiration of the historian. But, though his study is admirable within the framework it has set for itself, it must be confessed that *British Attitudes Towards India* leaves one with the uneasy feeling that the spate of 'history of the second order' that we have encountered over the past decade will not enable the historian to gain any real insight into the evolution of modern India. For gaining this insight we must turn to India itself, rather than rely on the intellectual history of the British in India.

RAVINDER KUMAR

Famines in India, A Study in Some Aspects of the Economic History of India (1860-1945) by B. M. Bhatia (Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1963; pp. ix + 367; price Rs. 20.00).

IN view of the generally underdeveloped state of Indian economic history, one greets with pleasure each fresh publication in the field. In the case of Professor Bhatia's book, under review, the pleasure is redoubled because of its quality and value. A study of the history of Indian famines might not, of itself, contribute substantially to our understanding of economic history. Fortunately, Professor Bhatia has written his famine history in the larger context of the development of the Indian economy after 1860.

An added virtue of the book is its painstaking research. Various branches of Indian history have suffered from a plethora of relatively unsubstantiated generalizations. Though there are exceptions to this rule, they are not impressive in quantity or quality. But Professor Bhatia has made careful use of a vast range of primary materials and has put them into a meaningful context. He has also provided a number of valuable and informative tables of data on various aspects of famine incidence and on aspects of Indian economic performance in the period covered by his study. We all know, of course, that the statistical information compiled during the British period was by no means free from blemish. Professor Bhatia keeps this clearly in mind and does not, in

general, press his interpretation beyond the limits of caution induced by the quality of his data.

His use of basic source materials is welcome in another sense. One can readily call to mind published accounts of economic history which are, in fact, little more than semi-digested accumulations of ill-assorted factual information. In the volume under review, factual information is handled in a sufficiently effective and orderly fashion so as to make it a tool for analysis rather than a barrier to analysis. At times Professor Bhatia gives the impression of seeing the trees rather than the forest, but in general he avoids this pitfall.

The volume does, however, have some limitations. Too many of the citations in the foot-notes, for instance, fail to give the reader full information. This will hinder the effort of students to track down such citations in an effort to go back into the originals whence he drew them. A later edition ought to be improved by careful checking of all foot-notes to make certain that they give the reader all necessary information about the source in question.

Some of the tables are of only marginal utility. This is due to the fact that Professor Bhatia, on occasion, gives data expressed only in value terms. For example, on page 37, Table 4 "Exports" is given in Crores of Rupees. Since we have no way of knowing whether prices had changed during the thirty years covered by the Table, we cannot tell whether, or how much, exports have increased. If prices were rising, exports given in value terms may well be seriously overstated in their apparent increase. Fortunately, in other tables he has partly rectified this situation and reduced our uncertainty.

In the volume, Professor Bhatia makes certain remarks which are of uncertain validity, or at least are open to more than one interpretation. Some of these may be considered to act as limitations upon the overall value of his study. For instance, on page 34, he uses a quotation from the *Calcutta Review* to support the statement that people wanted Government to limit the cultivation of commercial crops. Doubtless there were some who would have argued as he suggests. But against their arguments one would surely have to range the views of those who would as strenuously have opposed a limitation upon the freedom to cultivate cash crops. Again, on page 186, Professor Bhatia argues that famine would not have had such serious effects if the system of reporting developing scarcity had been more effective. On the surface this would appear to be valid without question. However, it may beg the issue completely. If officials had a bias in favour of under-estimating those factors responsible for scarcity, a better system of reporting would have had very little beneficial effect.

On page 189 Professor Bhatia states that the adoption of the Famine Codes eliminated some serious shortcomings in the relief machinery, especially vacillation in policy. But, on page 256, he reports serious vacillation after the Famine Codes had been adopted. The two statements are contradictory, and one gets the impression that the statement on page 189 should have received serious qualification at the point of its insertion in this text. Meanwhile, on page 202, he states that the "ultimate protection against poverty..... lay in improving the distributive share of the peasantry.....". However, many another statement in his text makes it appear that the ultimate protection lay in increased productivity, rather than in changes in the justice or equity of the distributive system.

These are, however, relatively minor issues. My most serious question regarding his interpretation concerns his repeated statement that the famine policy of Government was rendered grossly inadequate because Government stuck to a strict *laissez faire* position and would not act to control procurement or prices. For this he makes what seems to be a persuasive case. However, in the final chapter, dealing with the Bengal Famine of 1943, he cites evidence to show that Government's efforts at controls and direct intervention made the famine even more serious in its results. One could argue that the evidence of that chapter refutes the contention throughout the book that direct Government interference would have been a panacea. My own view is that Government should have intervened directly only to ensure adequate import of foodgrains into famine-affected regions.

Despite these few criticisms, I am happy to praise the book. Professor Bhatia has done a solid and careful study, he has looked widely into the context surrounding famines, and has shed light on a number of important aspects of the whole problem of the Indian economy during the period of his study. His volume belongs to a very serious collection of academic research on modern India.

ROBERT I. CRANE

Paramountcy under Dalhousie by Sri Nandan Prasad (Ranjit Printers & Publishers, Delhi, 1964; pp. xxxi+222; price Rs. 16.00).

DALHOUSIE annexed a number of Indian States on the ground of absence of natural heirs. His annexations frightened the native rulers and added to the general discontent which burst in the revolt of 1857. Dr. Sri Nandan Prasad ably examines in his book how the doctrine of paramountcy was evolved from the establishment of British rule in

1765, how its contents were modified and enlarged to suit the growing power of the Company, and how ultimately the Company came to have a stranglehold over the States.

In the early days the treaties clearly defined the relations between the two parties, but by 1840 the British authority had become supreme in India and the Directors declared it as their policy to abandon "no just and honourable accession of territory or revenue".

As paramount power the Company not only controlled the foreign relations of native States and their military establishments, but through the appointment of *Diwans* their civil administration as well. In the pursuit of its economic policies it compelled States to abandon the right of coinage, of collection of customs duties, and to construct roads and railways to facilitate transit of goods. The distinction that Dalhousie made between subordinate and independent States was of an arbitrary kind, since there was hardly any State which did not recognize the supremacy of the British Government in India.

Dr. Prasad feels that in the interest of stability of their Indian empire it was necessary for the British to annex the State territories, and Lord Dalhousie was the instrument for carrying out the policy evolved and dictated by his masters.

The author has based his study on official records and contemporary sources, and has dealt in a competent manner with the various aspects of paramountcy. His book is a valuable contribution to the existing meagre literature on the vexed problem of relations between the British Government and Indian States.

V. G. DIGHE

Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office (Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1963; Vol. I; pp. 249; price 32 sh. 6d; Vol. II; pp. 410; price 67 sh. 6d.).

THE twin-volume revised edition of Giuseppi's *Guide to the Manuscripts Preserved in the Public Record Office*, in its somewhat more compact and concise form, reaches a high water-mark of technical perfection and skill. It takes account of all the documentary materials brought under a single custody from the passing of the Public Records Act of 1838 to the present day—to be precise, 31 August 1960.

The term 'records' which, to begin with, was synonymous with rolls, writs, books, proceedings, decrees, bills, warrants, accounts, paper and documents, i.e. legal accumulations including curial records, had,

by 1954, acquired a much wider connotation to cover both legal and administrative accruals of Government. These accruals fall into two well-defined categories which for the sake of convenience, have been dealt with in a separate volume each in the present Guide. Thus Vol. I embodies description of records from the Norman Conquest onwards beginning with the Domesday Book (1086 A.D.) and the King's Court (*Curia Regis*) together with its auxiliary offices such as the Chancery, the Exchequer and the various courts of common law and equity through which it discharged its administrative, financial and judicial functions; while Vol. II pertains to the records of the former State Paper Office, i.e. records of the Principal Secretaries of State from the accession of Henry VIII in 1509 onwards, as well as to the records of the Admiralty, Government Departments of later origin and other bodies subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958. Particulars of later accessions, i.e. those subsequent to 31 August 1960, are included regularly in the 'summary of records transferred' given in the appendix to every Annual Report of the Keeper of Public Records. In other words, information as to the records transferred to the present day is fully taken care of. This is indeed an admirable achievement.

In the Public Record Office the records are arranged in 'groups', individual court or department from which they emanate forming a group. Thus in archival parlance the classification system throughout conforms strictly to the well-established principle of provenance. Each group is divided into classes, each class corresponding as a rule to an agency or an office which produced them. Once the creation and organic growth of a group of records are established, keeping the classes on the shelves scientifically in a chronological, topographical or alphabetical order becomes a matter of compelling necessity. And after such an arrangement is brought about documents belonging to the various series in each class are numbered. Thus finally every single piece, unit or paper bears a brief sequence of letters and numbers. For example, C.O. 571 refers to Immigration class of records of the Colonial Office and concerns the entry of Indian indentured labour into the West Indies and Mauritius. The individual papers within this class bear further serial numbers to indicate their exact placement. By and large the various classes are original, i.e. they correspond to the distinct series formed and preserved as such in their offices of origin. The group called 'Special Collections' is the only exception to the norm. As its title signifies, it represents an agglomeration of papers which had either strayed away from their parent collections or were artificially collected together from various sources because of similitude of form or likeness of content at a time when the theory of *respect des fonds* had not yet

taken shape. This artificial group is sub-divided into fifteen artificial classes and the key to them can be found in Vol. I of the Guide.

Descriptive and numerical lists, indexes, calendars and other finding aids to the various series, prepared by the Public Record Office, are available in print, typescript or manuscript in the search room. But a scholar must first consult this indispensable Guide for the groups and classes of records which pertain to his subject and then go through the detailed reference media to form an exact idea of the material bearing on his subject.

A word about the general lay-out of the publication which, as rightly claimed by the compilers, is "the most convenient and compendious yet devised". The various groups of records form separate chapters. In Vol. I they are arranged in an order dictated partly by the chronology of development of the courts and offices concerned, partly by their nature and their mutual relationship. Vol. II begins with the State Paper Office, followed by the records of Departments in alphabetical order.

Description of each group is prefaced by a brief account of the origin, history and growth of the court, department, etc. and its various functionaries and their duties, while the preamble to each class specifies the range of dates, total number of pieces and condition of the papers, followed by an indication as to the information contained in them.

Documents acquired by gift, deposit or purchase have been classified as records and are included in Vol. II under the Public Record Office Group.

Each volume of the Guide is provided with a key to regnal years with chronological index to statutes cited in the text, list of abbreviations and an exhaustive index to persons, places and subjects. Vol. I is further furnished with an adequate glossary of technical terms which facilitates decipherment of the text of records.

It was a wise decision on the part of the Public Record Office to scrap their original plan of publishing a more detailed guide in several parts of which the preliminary volume had already seen the light of the day. The project, though laudable, would have proved extremely time-consuming and expensive. As it is, the present Guide caters to the needs of research scholars admirably, incorporating as it does the accessions since 1923 where the Giuseppi's guide left off. Quite a number of later public accruals will not be open to inspection because of the "fifty year rule" enjoined by the Lord Chancellor, but the great majority of papers of private provenance offer unrestricted access.

This attractively produced Guide deserves as much approbation

of the archivist as that of the research scholar who is sure to find it a very handy and useful tool.

DHAN KESWANI

Annual Report on the National Archives of Malaysia, 1963 (Kuala Lumpur, 1964; pp. IV+59; price \$2).

THE Director of National Archives of Malaysia deserves congratulations for bringing out a very comprehensive and informative report on the activities of the National Archives of Malaysia during the year 1963. The attempt is all the more creditable as the Malaysian National Archives is still in a stage of infancy (having been established in December 1957), and only one previous report of the institution covering the period 1957-62, has so far been published.

The report for 1963 has been divided into certain broad headings which cover the entire field of activities of the National Archives of Malaysia. After certain introductory remarks, the report traces the efforts to have a legislation on archives in the country, and the preparation of a final draft of the proposed Act in consultation with several foreign experts in the field. The practice of deputing officers of the National Archives to foreign archival repositories for training, and adopting the knowledge and experience thus gained to local needs and conditions, is most commendable. It is regrettable that the activities of the National Archives are hampered due to lack of suitable accommodation to house the records. It is hoped that this hurdle will be removed as soon as the proposed new building is constructed.

The most important section of the report is the one dealing with the "holdings". Apart from the vast variety of materials which the National Archives is trying to acquire from various sources, its most remarkable achievement lies in the amount of records it has taken over from the transferring agencies during the year 1963. The accessions during that year alone were almost as voluminous as the total accessions since the establishment of the National Archives. A detailed list of the accessions during the year has been included in the report as appendix I. This list will be of great help to research scholars, especially in view of the fact that the National Archives has not been able to compile any other reference media so far. It is, however, regrettable that the Archives should be saddled with the responsibility of registering and distributing all the books, periodicals and newspapers printed in the entire Federation of Malaysia, as required under the Preservation of Books Ordinance. It is hoped that immediately after the establishment of a National Library

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

Published by the National Archives of India in 1962, the above volume is the fourth in the series entitled *Fort William—India House Correspondence*. It contains correspondence that went on in the Public Department between the Board at Fort William and the Court of Directors in London during the years 1764-66 and mainly covers the second administration of Clive.

The correspondence included in the volume clearly reflects the circumstances which led to Clive's reappointment as Governor of Bengal and the extent to which he accomplished the objects he had undertaken to perform. It gives a clear idea of his untiring efforts to introduce an element of responsibility in the Company's rule in Bengal and to curb to a certain extent the profiteering tendencies of its servants. The value of the publication lies in the fact that it 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 eighteenth century.

The volume contains an informative introduction in which the Editor has critically reviewed the salient points emerging from the letters, and elucidated their historical background. The utility of the work is further enhanced by the illustrations, notes and index included in it.

Copies obtainable from :

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

in the country, the National Archives will be relieved of this responsibility and be left to devote its undivided attention to archives which are its primary concern.

A review of the activities of the National Archives of Malaysia during the year 1963 will remain incomplete without reference to its efforts to establish a library of the private papers of its first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. This library, which is proposed to be established on the pattern of the Presidential Libraries in the United States of America, and will house the private papers of the present as well as future Prime Ministers of Malaysia, will provide invaluable material for research on the history of this country. It is gratifying to note that initial steps in this direction have already been taken.

The report records the admirable efforts of the National Archives of Malaysia to establish contacts with the various archival repositories abroad, as also with international organizations like the UNESCO and the International Council on Archives.

The value of the report is very much enhanced by the addition of four illustrations and eight appendices. Its get-up is excellent and printing errors are almost non-existent. It will be welcomed by all archivists and research scholars interested in information relating to the fresh archival accessions and other activities of this young institution.

DAYAL DASS

The Preservation of Books in Tropical and Sub-tropical Countries by Wilfred J. Plumbe (Oxford University Press, 1964; Price Rs. 15.40; pp. 72).

MR. Plumbe has undoubtedly succeeded in compressing in this handy volume useful information and suggestions needed by custodians of written materials in the tropics where cockroaches, book worms, silver fish, white ants, rodents, mildew, dust, heat and rain pose formidable problems. Apart from having visited various institutions in the tropical countries, he has himself worked as librarian in the universities of Malaya and Nigeria where he has had to grapple with practical problems. He is thus in an admirable position to make suggestions and offer solutions. What are usually believed to be dull and drab technical details the author has presented in an interesting manner, thus keeping the reader's curiosity alive.

Apart from analysing the conditions favourable for the growth of insect pests and mildew the author provides a graphic survey of the

insecticides used from the earliest times to the present day, starting from 'haung nieh' (an insecticide extracted from the Amur Cork tree by the Chinese) and rounding off with pentachlorophenol, dieldrin and X-ray. While many of the recipes enumerated have been put to use in a number of institutions and are known to have no deleterious effect some among them in this, reviewer's opinion would require further testing before they could be recommended for use. It is time a scientific reappraisal was made of the age-old practices still prevalent in some countries which are reported to combat insect menace efficiently. The regional centres for 'book pathology' advocated by the author can render signal service in this direction in addition to conducting research on modern preservatives.

The problems created by excess of dust and extremes in humidity have been discussed in two brief chapters which the librarians in temperate zones will find absorbing and those in tropics full of common sense advice. The chapters on 'Protection of Building' and 'What Publishers Can Do' are thought provoking. The publishers can render a commendable service to the world of scholarship by replacing the traditional insectattractant binding materials of books by more satisfactory substitutes now available like nylon thread, pyroxilin or vinyl coated cloth and polyvinyl emulsion type adhesive.

In his 'recommendations' the author recapitulates the suggestions regarding prevention of insect attack, control of mildew, and preservation of leather binding. The bibliography and lists of addresses given at the end will be found of immense help to those who want to probe deeper into the mysteries of book preservation and to get in touch with organisations actively engaged in research in this field. Librarians and archivists and all those interested in the preservation and safe keeping of books, documents and papers will find this volume a welcome addition to their collection of books on the subject.

R. C. GUPTA

obtained from Travancore and exported from the port of Anjengo. Readymade 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 establishment 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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INDIAN RECORDS SERIES
FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. XV, 1782-86

EDITED BY
PROF. C. H. PHILIPS
&
DR. B. B. MISRA

Size : Super Royal Octavo

Pages xliv + 905 and 11 illustrations

Price Rs. 25.00

This volume, brought out in 1963, contains the Foreign and Secret letters which passed between the Court of Directors in London and the Governor General in Council at Fort William from the beginning of the year 1782 to the end of 1786. During this period the Indian politics in London reached a climax, the campaign in the British Parliament to bring the East India Company and its servants under the State control was finally decided, and Henry Dundas, the best informed minister on Indian affairs, made himself master of the Board of Control and imposed a coherent policy. The crisis was, in the main, the result of the bankruptcy towards which the Company was heading, the political resentment which was evoked by the power Warren Hastings was wielding in India, and the exploitation and questionable behaviour on the part of the Company's servants. Though the letters included in the volume throw only sidelights on these developments, they contain the conclusions reached by the Council or the Committee in policy matters with an occasional account of the action taken, and this information is of great value to students and researchers alike.

Besides correspondence, the volume contains a scholarly 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 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 Trengganau.

Apart from acquiring political predominance in India the East India Company continued to establish its trade and commerce. Pepper was

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES
BROWNE CORRESPONDENCE

EDITED BY
K. D. BHARGAVA, M.A.

Size : Super Royal Octavo

Pages xii + 363 and 4 illustrations

Price Rs. 15.00

Browne Correspondence is the second volume to be published by the National Archives of India under Scheme II of its Publication Programme.

During the period covered by the volume Shah Alam was still important in the politics of India, not because he wielded any influence of his own but because he was the wearer of the Imperial Crown. This Crown was the symbol of sovereignty still exuded magic and was invoked as the source of all authority. The Emperor remained the *de jure* ruler of almost the whole of India, and possession of his person was a prospect which attracted all who aspired to influence and power. He was too weak to control either men or events and was anxious only to sell his patronage to the highest bidder. This struggle for power in Delhi was a welcome opportunity to the Sikhs, the Jats and the Marathas to recover lost ground and perhaps even to secure control of Delhi and the Emperor. And as the contending parties were evenly balanced, Hastings thought that a slight effort on the Company's part might restore Shah Alam's authority. His choice fell on Major James Browne who was to be his personal representative with the sole object of reporting on the characters and conditions at Delhi and the activities of foreign agents. It is the correspondence of Browne with Hastings, Macpherson and the chiefs and nobles around Delhi, between August 1782 and April 1785, which has been reproduced *in extenso* in this volume.

The introduction which surveys the history of the period in the light of the information contained in the letters, the exhaustive notes and index and a contemporary map given at the end of the correspondence enhance the value of the volume.

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