

## BOOK REVIEWS

Milton O. Gustafson, ed., *The National Archives and Foreign Relations Research*  
(National Archives Conferences, Volume 4), Athens, Ohio University Press,  
1974, 292 + xvii pp. \$10.00 U.S. ISBN 8214-0163-7

by Donald A. DeBats

Originally presented to the 1969 National Archives Conference of American Foreign Relations Research, the twenty-three papers and discussions reproduced in this volume speak to a much broader scholarly community concerned with research in virtually all American fields. As the fourth of a planned nine conference series intended to improve understanding and communications between the National Archives and the academic community, this conference was charged with looking particularly to the problems and possibilities of foreign relations research in the National Archives. Nevertheless, as the historians at the conference repeatedly argued, the inter-action between domestic and foreign policies is intense; the result is that the collection, perhaps unintentionally, illuminates both areas.

The sections of the National Archives relating to foreign affairs are vast; the records of the War Department stretch from Andrew Jackson's 1818 excursion in the swamps of Florida to the Military Intelligence Division of the Second World War and consume 60,000 cubic feet of space. The audio-visual collection relating to foreign affairs contains 85,000 reels of film, some of it captured, as well as three or four million still photographs. The mammoth records of the State Department, among the most heavily used in the entire National Archives, are unhelpfully divided into a series of confusing sub-collections. The proliferation of executive departments, the continuing tradition of establishing presidential libraries, and the sheer growth of bureaucracy and its records combine to compound the problems and frustrations of the researcher. On these grounds alone, a volume which attempts to provide an introductory guide to this vast array of material is not only justified but essential.

The most successful papers in the collection are those which, as research guides, detail the holdings of the Archives or attempt to relate current historical problems to those holdings. Ten of the papers were presented by archivists who successfully accomplished this first purpose by introducing material relating to the Departments of State, War and Navy as well as the captured records section, foreign relations material in the six presidential libraries, the audio-visual and microfilm archives, and the forthcoming volumes of the Foreign Relations Series. Any scholar or student about to embark on research touching on these areas will find this section of the book of considerable assistance. The inclusion of an index would have made the volume even more useful as a reference aid; the omission is more serious than is usually the case in edited collections.

The least successful papers reflect the obvious fact that several of the twelve academics invited to give papers prepared their material quite independently of one another and the intentions of the conference.

Although Norman Graebner simply ignored the conference theme, Gaddis Smith flatly refused to discuss archival matters and preferred instead to berate revisionist writing generally and that which he classified as "New Left" in particular. Indeed it was only when Foy Kohler, former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, attempted to close the conference with a cold warrior's tirade against "peaceful co-existence" that liberal dissent rather than anti-New Left criticism came to dominate the transcribed discussion sections.

The paper which most successfully meets the intentions of the conference is Robert F. Smith's discussion of twentieth century U.S.-Latin American relations. Smith manages to combine a coherent picture of American foreign relations in that area of the world with a concise account of some of the most pressing historical problems which emerge from his synthesis; these in turn he relates to the resources of the archives. Smith concludes by calling for a series of research teams to undertake bi-lateral studies of foreign policy on the model of the famous Shotwell series on Canadian-American relations.

Whatever their ideological differences, the academics at the conference voiced a common concern for the early release of classified governmental materials. When the Foreign Relations Series began in 1861, it was viewed as a shocking Republican experiment which released to the public materials relating to U.S. foreign policy a mere eight (as opposed to the European norm of fifty) years after the event. In time, however, the interval has slipped from eight to fourteen to the present twenty-two years. As the archivists were not confident that publication would be maintained on a year for year basis (the Foreign Relations Series for the years 1945 to 1949 runs to thirty-eight volumes), several academics suggested that a single agency might be established to provide clearance to all archival data prior to publication in the Foreign Relations Series.

In the end, however, it is the intrinsic interest of the material contained in the National Archives which dominates the book. Even the sources of the Archives are fascinating. The image of George Kennan, on the decision to abolish the priceless library of the State Department's "Russian Division", carefully secreting some fifteen boxes and twenty-nine folios of material in the attic of the State Department for eventual shipment to the National Archives will not soon fade. Similarly the richness of the Archives' foreign collection for scholars of domestic as well as foreign policy is repeatedly demonstrated. Public opinion on fears of a Japanese invasion of the west coast of the U.S. in the 1900-1910 period, the records of the American Colonization Society for the transplantation of slaves to Africa, U.S. corporate ties with major German munitions concerns during the First World War, Herbert Hoover's records of relief efforts in Belgium — these "foreign" archives and many many more will concern the historian of domestic as well as foreign policy. And in this sense the conference and the book succeed in their most important aim — to alert the academic community to rich lodes of research material contained in the National Archives.

Robert Wolfe, ed., *Captured German and related records; a National Archives Conference* (National Archives Conferences, Volume 3), Athens, Ohio University Press, 1974, 279 + xix pp. \$10.00 U.S. ISBN 8214 0172-6

by Robin Prior

In 1943 Allied planners came to realize that one by-product of the invasion of Europe would be the capture of large amounts of enemy documents. As a result plans were made for the proper collection and preservation of enemy records — archivists and other officers equipped to deal with these records were well to the fore in the advancing armies. The difficulties that were encountered were monumental. In Italy it was found that an American commander had used bulky bundles of files to lay a road through the mud. In other cases the retreating enemy had buried or burnt private papers and government records.

None-the-less, the efforts of the Allies to preserve captured records were spectacularly successful and thousands of tons of records fell into their hands. As a result of the policy of Unconditional Surrender, these records were treated as war booty, and became the property of the invading powers. Thus for the first time in history virtually the complete records of a defeated country were available for study by its enemies.

After capture most of the records were removed to Britain or the United States for intelligence purposes. Eventually selections of the documents were microfilmed and the originals returned to the German Federal Republic. By far the largest collection of these microfilms is now in the National Archives in Washington.

In 1967 a Conference was organized by the National Archives to make archivists and scholars more generally aware of the extent of the captured records. The proceedings of that Conference are now available at a modest price but one criticism that could be made is that there was a gap of six years between conference date and publication date.

The papers are grouped into five sections each one corresponding to a conference session. The first section shows how a policy towards captured documents was developed by the Allies in 1943, how the records were removed to the United States and some of the early uses to which the records were put. These included using German records concerning Russia for intelligence purposes during the Korean War and for verification and documentation of the United States official war histories.

The first paper in Session II amplifies the use of German records in U.S. war histories. Detmar Finke describes how officers of the German army were first interrogated and then asked to write histories of the areas of the war with which they were familiar. These manuscripts are still a major source for any historian of World War II.

The second paper describes how captured documents were used by the U.S. Air Force to assess the effectiveness of strategic bombing. The U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey (headed incidentally by J. K. Galbraith) combed the documents for evidence of the damage done

to German industry by U.S. bombing. (Its results were very unpalatable to the Government. Strategic bombing had been a failure.)

A further use to which captured documents were put was in the Nürnberg War Crimes trials. Telford Taylor, a military historian and prosecutor at Nürnberg, shows how the prosecution was based on evidence obtained from the documents and he brings out the haphazard way in which the documents used were collected.

Session III is devoted to a brief description of the role of the U.S. State Department in the use of captured German records. The first paper shows how the German Foreign Ministry archives were culled to complete (in English) the set of volumes known as *Documents on German Foreign Policy*, an invaluable source for scholars of Weimar and Nazi Germany. The State Department is also concerned with running the Berlin Document Centre where the principal collection is a file of ten million membership records of the Nazi Party.

Several specialist collections are the subject of Session IV. Over 400 tons of German Naval Archives, dating from the formation of the German Navy in the 19th century, were captured. The documents relating to German policy in the Pacific were microfilmed by the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library.

The only non-German records discussed are dealt with in this section. Mussolini's private papers, which were seized and microfilmed, as were those of his son-in-law, Count Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister, are the subject of one chapter. A small selection of these papers was edited by Malcolm Muggeridge and published as *Ciano's Diary, 1939-1943*.

The final session deals with the actual microfilming of the records at Alexandria, Virginia, and their eventual transferral to the National Archives. This was a huge project which was carried out in collaboration with the American Historical Association. Australian archivists may be envious of the ease with which their American counterparts could tap funds from big business and foundations to enable this work to be continued.

A feature of the book is the 48-page section of photographs. These include some of the more interesting documents, such as the instrument of Unconditional Surrender signed at Reims in 1945, a page from Ciano's Diary (written, as was often his custom, on Red Cross calendars, a bizarre touch) and Adolf Eichmann's Nazi Party membership card from the Berlin Document Centre.

Altogether these papers plus the discussion sessions that followed should bring to the attention of archivists and historians the scope and availability of captured German records as well as providing an interesting chapter in archival history.

C. A. Burmester, compiler, *National Library of Australia: guide to the collections*.  
Volume 1. Canberra, National Library of Australia, [1974, i.e. 1975]. 682 pp.  
\$7.00. ISBN 0 642 99029-8

by Valmai Hankel

No one would doubt that the National Library of Australia has this country's greatest number of "special" collections and the greatest wealth in this commodity. Until now, the contents of most of these collections have not been recorded publicly, and so it should be sufficient to record that a start has been made on documenting, however briefly, the contents of some of these collections and some of the National Library's collecting and reference activities. The *Guide* must help to make more of the National Library's treasures known, by recording items which do not appear in the Library's "traditional catalogues".

Strange bedfellows some of the collections seem to be, even given the Introduction's claim that the "*Guide* is made up of a series of notes on elements of the National Library's collections". Subjects in which the Library apparently has some strength, for instance, the Taiping Rebellion for one, and water desalination for another, are included together with a "blanket order" type of collection such as that of the publications of the Standards Association of Australia, and the to-be-expected formed collections such as the Ferguson Collection and the Onions Collections. Books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, paintings, films, tape-recordings, microfilm and other materials are included, and many librarians will be pleased to see summaries of such programmes as the Australian joint acquisition project in Indonesia, Medlars, and other activities.

The entry under "Australian newspapers: indexes" shows that the *Guide* has a use beyond that of simply drawing attention to the National Library's own collections. Details are given of newspaper indexes recorded in but not necessarily compiled by the National Library, and we are dramatically reminded of the paucity of newspaper indexes, particularly for current newspapers. While card indexes are maintained by some newspaper offices for their own papers, the State Library of Tasmania is the only major library which appears to be making any systematic attempt to index any of the current newspapers of its State. Of course, it is possible that indexes exist of which the National Library is unaware; there is, for example, an index to South Australia's *The Advertiser* compiled by that paper's staff.

Some entries are tantalizing in their brevity — I should like to know more about the 4,039 items which form the Mackaness collection of Australian literary manuscripts. The fact that there is a list of items in the Manuscripts Reading Room is little consolation to the researcher who cannot get to Canberra.

Description of the contents of each collection ranges from a few lines to several pages, depending on the size and importance of the collection. Often specific titles of works within the collections are listed. Dates at the top of each entry presumably refer to the time when the entry was prepared, although nowhere can I find this stated.

The arrangement is alphabetical by title of the collection or, if there is no title, by subject. The index is, therefore, vitally important and should be very thorough to enable the *Guide* to be used effectively. I did not find it thorough. The index repeats the name of each collection and has many subject entries and cross references, but it is inadequate and inconsistent. Researchers could miss collections which may interest them because they do not know the name of an extant collection in their field, or because the index is not specific enough. The South-East Asian Map Collection, for example, has substantial holdings on Malaysia and the Philippines, but there is no index entry at all under "Maps", or under "Malaysia" or under the "Philippines". Similarly, an important part of the collection on Orchids in Australia seems to be the papers of R. D. Fitzgerald (orchidist), and yet there is no entry under "Fitzgerald" in the index. I suppose most people would think to look under "Botany" if they are interested in wild-flowers: if they do not they may remain unaware of the National Library's important collections in that field. One hopes that a more detailed index with an increase in analytic entries will appear in the later volumes.

As a result of the appearance of this *Guide* I hope that pressure may be put upon the National Library to publish some of the lists of contents of its collection. An example is the Mackaness collection mentioned earlier. It is also unfortunate that such potentially useful works as J. D. Holmes' bibliography of the New South Wales Bookstall series should remain unpublished.

Sans serif type and unjustified lines seem to be the height of typographical fashion at present. Neither, in my opinion, assists the legibility of the *Guide*. I would like to see the National Library follow the lead of some publishers by stating the type faces used in its publications: here not even the printer's name is evident. The *Guide* is not free from typographical errors or editorial misspellings, among them being the ubiquitous errors in the spellings of the names P. R. Stephensen and R. D. FitzGerald (poet). It is pleasing to see a thick paperback which will lie flat wherever it is opened.

The *Guide*, which makes fascinating browsing, is a monumental record and we should be grateful that it exists. It should serve as an inspiration for other libraries to publicize their collections.