



# *the ohio archivist*

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Spring, 1970

## **SOA ANNUAL MEETING AT HEIDELBERG-HAYES**

The 1970 annual meeting of the Society of Ohio Archivists will be held Sunday and Monday, May 3 and 4, at Heidelberg College and at the Rutherford B. Hayes Library. Registrants will meet at Heidelberg's new Beegley Library late Sunday afternoon for an open house, dinner, and a speech by Dr. Leslie Fishel, president of Heidelberg College. The evening program will consist of a panel discussion on the Ohio Historical Society's proposal to establish the "Ohio Network of American History Research Centers."

Dr. Kenneth Davison, Chairman of Heidelberg's American Studies Department will be moderator of the panel composed of Dr. William D. Aeschbacher, Chairman of the History Department, University of Cincinnati; Mr. James T. Dodson, Head Librarian, Wright State University; Dr. William H. Leckie, Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Toledo; and Mr. Daniel R. Porter, Director, Ohio Historical Society.

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**DR. DANIEL REED,**  
speaker at SOA annual meeting



The Rutherford B. Hayes Library

## **CINCINNATI WORKSHOP -ANOTHER SUCCESS**

The 1969 Fall Workshop of the Society of Ohio Archivists took place at the Cincinnati Historical Society on November 14. Participants were greeted by Director Richard Haupt, who led a brief tour of the Society's handsome building and of the displays which had been arranged by the Society staff. Dr. Robert Warner of the Michigan Historical Collections discussed the general principles of the arrangement and description of the manuscript collections, with some criteria for the selection of manuscript curators. After luncheon at the Society, there was a brief business meeting, reviewing the progress and plans of the Society. Mrs. Lee Jordan of the Cincinnati Historical Society introduced the members of the panel, each of whom described problems and practices of the repository which he represented. William Bigglestone of Oberlin, Dennis Harrison of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Dr. Jacob Marcus of the

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## Opinions

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

During the past two years since the Society of Ohio Archivists was established, the organization has developed all the official characteristics of most other trade and professional organizations. The SOA has adopted a constitution and bylaws, elected its first group of officers and council members, held three regular scheduled meetings (with an average attendance of 80), conducted nine council meetings, incorporated under Ohio law, adopted a dues provision, recruited a stable membership roster, scheduled meeting sites for the next two years, adopted two special projects, and started publishing a biannual newsletter.

The composition of the membership consists of a core group of about forty persons who are full-time archivists and manuscripts curators, another twenty-five who work part-time, and then the balance of the membership made up of three related professional groups, librarians, records managers, and history professors. The organization has attracted many more librarians, particularly academic librarians, than was expected, and fewer professional historians. It appears that the Society can carry a paid membership of about 200 persons and expect an average turnout of 75-100 registrants for its meetings. The staffs of existing archival repositories are growing at a fast pace and a number of institutional archives, especially universities, are being established, meaning that the membership rate should steadily rise.

The program of the SOA includes education, project sponsorship, and communication coordination. The holding of at least two meetings a year in different parts of the state has brought the most vocal response from members who like meeting their colleagues on their home ground. The four programs have all been instructional in scope with a number of areas covered including restoration, oral history, computer applications, microfilm publications, arrangement of collections, statewide cooperation among repositories, and Presidential Libraries.

The SOA has already undertaken two major publication projects. Last October the compilation of a guide to manuscripts and archives in Ohio was launched. In January the Council approved the publication by the Society of a volume on the spring 1971 meeting consisting of essays on the archivist and urban studies.

Communications on almost any matter can now be routed through the SOA. An example are some recent discussions with officers of the Ohio Academy of History on problems of common concern. Now the newsletter provides a vehicle for statewide communication.

The time is ripe for more activity among individual members. The officers hope that ideas for more projects will be discussed and that members will step forward to

direct them. This exchange and good will that seems to currently characterize the organization is probably due to the lack of institutional rivalry that impedes other states. Up to this point, the nation's oldest and largest state archival organization (how many others are there?) has got its thing together.

DRL

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### NUCMC IT NOW

The start in 1958 of *The National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections* marked the first time the manuscripts profession has been able to provide the media to bring all manuscripts in America under standard bibliographical control. In the annual volumes published since then, thousands of entries for individual collections from hundreds of repositories have aided researchers in locating primary source materials.

Unfortunately, Ohio's record of reporting is not good, as less than half the collections held by repositories situated in Ohio have been reported. A commendable number of Ohio libraries did report entries in the first or second volumes, but very few Ohio entries have been submitted in the last ten years. Repositories should report all their present holdings, both processed and unprocessed collections, to NUCMC as soon as possible. This way scholars can at least write the repository for further information on the status of the collection. There is also the very practical advantage that the Library of Congress will send twenty copies of the NUCMC cards to the repository which can be used in the institution's card catalog.

Since 1970 is the beginning of a new decade, now is a good time to check your current entries in *The National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections*. If you have collections that are not reported, send in the new entries now before getting any further behind. The Society of Ohio Archivists should adopt an official policy of encouraging all Ohio repositories to cooperate with the NUCMC service so that Ohio can set a standard of leadership in this vital reference area.

Pat Gatherum  
Ohio Historical Society

The Ohio Archivist is the biannual newsletter of the Society of Ohio Archivists. It is published every spring and fall prior to the regularly scheduled meetings of the Society.

The editors welcome articles, photographs, opinions, and other suggestions.

Kermit J. Pike, Editor

John J. Large, Jr., Managing Editor

Address: The Western Reserve Historical Society  
10825 East Boulevard - Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Membership in the SOA is open to all residents of Ohio or those who are employed in this state. Annual dues are \$3.00 per year. Subscriptions to the newsletter are available at \$3.00 per year. Address all membership and subscription inquiries to:

Mrs. D.E. Helmuth, SOA Secretary-Treasurer  
Case Western Reserve University  
Adelbert Main Building  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

# WHAT IS THE SAA?

The Society of American Archivists, founded in 1936, is the major national professional association for the field of archives and manuscripts administration. In the past decade the Society has given increased attention as well to records management. Membership is not limited to individuals; most major institutions in the field hold institutional memberships.

The Society is governed by an elected Council consisting of four officers and eight members. The Council meets four times during the year. At the annual business meeting, open to all members, elections are held, constitutional amendments voted upon, and officers and administrative committees present their annual reports.

The committees of the SAA handle much important work of the Society. Appointed annually by the incoming president, the committees are entrusted with such administrative tasks as nominations and program planning for the annual meeting; while other committees concentrate on special areas and problems of interest to the profession, such as automation, collection of manuscripts, education and training, and the control and description of archives and manuscripts.

A recent development is the addition of paid staff to the secretary's office, permitting it to inaugurate new services and to expand certain existing ones.

As a professional society, the SAA exists to provide service to its profession and to its members. The SAA's service activities are many and varied. The Society's three-day annual meeting each fall, features workshops and sessions on topics of interest to all areas of the profession. The annual meeting for 1970 will be in Washington, D.C., September 30 through October 2.

Of foremost importance is the publication of the **American Archivist**. This journal, the voice of the archival profession in this hemisphere, has been published quarterly since January 1938. It has become the major source of information on significant developments in the field by including comprehensive articles and book reviews, an annual classified bibliography of the year's writings on archives-manuscripts-records management subjects, and extensive news and technical notes. A new edition of the SAA's biographical directory of its membership will be published this spring and distributed free to all members.

The Society's placement service maintained by the secretary's office has received increasing use. A bi-monthly **Placement Newsletter**, published jointly by the Society of American Archivists and the American Records Management Association, carries announcements from applicants seeking positions and from employers with openings. Employers making confidential inquiries are provided with resumes or other available information by the secretary's office. This service is provided without charge.

A major project sponsored by the Society is a five-year study of the permanence of paper and related materials. This project, begun in 1969, is being conducted by the National Bureau of Standards and has an annual budget of over \$100,000. The project, in addition to providing reliable standards for paper permanence will prepare and publish a comprehensive handbook describing

the findings of the study and the most appropriate means of preserving paper records. A brochure on this project is available on request from the secretary's office.

Projects undertaken by the SAA's committees vary each year. The 1969 committees on Church Archives and Business Archives published directories of their fields. The Committee on Automated Techniques has been active in the development of SPINDEX II, a computer program designed to retrieve a wide variety of information for both the user and the curator of records, based on coded finding aids.

To be most effective in rendering service to the archival profession, the Society must represent as many of the persons and agencies active in the profession as possible. Financial support for the Society's publications, committees, and special projects is derived in large part from membership dues. Individual Memberships are \$15 a year and include a subscription to the **American Archivist**. Contributing Individual Members and Institutional Members (dues \$25 annually) receive copies of all Society publications. Sustaining Institutional Memberships at \$100 a year are available to those institutions interested in making a substantial financial contribution to the Society's work. Life Memberships are open to individuals only at \$300.

For further information on the SAA's programs and services, write F. Gerald Ham, Secretary, Society of American Archivists, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

## NETWORK PROPOSAL

The notes and comments section of the current issue of **Ohio History** contains a proposal, written by David R. Larson, for the establishment of an "Ohio Network of American History Research Centers." In this article, Larson defines a history research center as an archives-library program that collects the full range of social science research materials including printed items, newspapers, special collections, and archives.

The author's thesis is that Ohio educational institutions should focus their efforts on strengthening the three existing research centers - Cincinnati Historical Society, Ohio Historical Society, Western Reserve Historical Society - and on supporting four new research centers located in the four relatively inactive regions of the state. These four centers, Larson suggests, should be sponsored by state universities that offer graduate degrees in history. He names as first choices for each region the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Ohio University, and Wright State University.

This article will be the topic for the evening panel discussion at the SOA annual meeting at Heidelberg on May 3. Reprints of the proposal will be sent to all registrants before the meeting. Members of the SOA are urged to give this article their careful attention.

# OHS Archives Guides Project

Those interested in Ohio's governmental archives and printed documents will be happy to note three major research aids to be published by the Ohio Historical Society in 1971. The archives department of the Society is now working on these projects. Funds are provided through Title III (inter-library cooperation) of the Library Services and Construction Act to help the Society prepare two of these publications.

The first is an updated and expanded edition of a work published by the Ohio Library Foundation in 1964. Entitled a **Union Bibliography of Ohio Printed State Documents, 1803-1970**, it will list all known state publications and arrange them according to current state government organization. The bibliography, edited by Mr. Patricia Swanson, will update the earlier edition by including documents published, as well as those catalogued or added, in the last eighteen years. In addition to libraries in Columbus, it will contain entries from libraries in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, and Toledo. It will serve as a state-wide union guide by coding the individual entries with symbols for the fifteen libraries participating in the project. Brief histories will be included which site the development of each agency. Of direct use to a large number of researchers, this publication will also provide librarians in Ohio and the rest of the nation with a reference tool necessary for properly servicing inquiries about Ohio printed documents.

The second publication, a **Guide to County and Municipal Records in Ohio**, attacks a long-standing problem in this state. Most extant local records are buried in court houses and city halls across the state and are without professional care. The task for the researcher who wishes to use these records, and for the agency that wishes to care for them, is overwhelming. This guide, therefore, will act not only as a tool for researchers, but also as an information base for a program to preserve local records.

Mr. Curtis Dittbrenner, archives specialist for local records, as editor of the guide, is researching the development of local government and the history of individual county and municipal offices. At the same time, he is determining the major records series and their research value. In addition to the information compiled by Mr. Dittbrenner, the guide will incorporate data accumulated by Mr. Paul Yon, archives field representative, on the holdings of individual offices in specific counties and municipalities and the accessibility and condition of those records. Holdings will be listed by agency of origin under the county or municipality to which they belong.

This, and other information obtained in research for the guide, will enable the Ohio Historical Society to implement a local records program based on regional records repositories, thus making local records available for research in or near the area in which they were created. Until such repositories are designated, the Ohio Historical Society will continue to bring all important records offered them to the state archives in Columbus.

The Society's archives staff is also compiling a third publication, a **Guide to the State Archives at the Ohio Historical Society**. Edited by Gerald Newborg, with the assistance of Miss Karen Burkhardt, this long-needed publication will list, under current government organization, the record series held by the state archives. The **Guide to the State Archives** will provide general descriptive control of the state records in the custody of the Ohio Historical Society. More specific and detailed description will be provided in published and unpublished inventories or record groups.

These three publications will provide valuable assistance to archivists, librarians, professors, graduate students, lawyers, genealogists, public officials, and the general public in the use of Ohio's governmental archives and printed documents. Their compilation and publication will also mark the start of the Ohio Historical Society's attempt to structure a quality state and local government archives program for Ohio.

Gerald G. Newborg  
Ohio Historical Society

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## Upcoming Archival Workshop

The School of Library Science of Case Western Reserve University is sponsoring a Workshop in College and University Archives, June 15-19, 1970. Guest lecturers for the workshop include Dr. Phillip Mason of Wayne State University, Dr. Maynard Brichford of the University of Illinois, J.E. Boell of the University of Wisconsin, and William Bigglestone of Oberlin College. Dean Jesse Shera of the Library School and Meredith B. Colket, Jr. and Kermit J. Pike of The Western Reserve Historical Society will also speak to the group.

Fees for the workshop will include room and meals in a University dormitory, as well as a dinner at Gwinn (university-owned estate on Lake Erie), a tour of The Western Reserve Historical Society with a catered dinner at the museum, and a reception on Friday afternoon. Please address inquiries to Mrs. D.E. Helmuth, Archivist, Case Western Reserve University, 2040 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

## SOA Meetings for 1970-1971 Academic Year

The annual fall symposium will be held Friday, November 6, 1970, at the University of Akron on the theme "County and Municipal Government Records in Ohio." The morning session will deal with the status of the local records program in Ohio with attention to the Ohio Historical Society's recently developed program to house local records at the regional centers that comprise the proposed Ohio Network of American History Research Centers. The afternoon session will feature a professional historian and a prominent genealogist who will discuss the various research techniques that can be employed with local records.

The annual 1971 business meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, 1971 at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Centering on the theme "The Archivist and Urban Studies," the two day meeting will bring together a large group of experts in the field of urban research including archivists, librarians, historians, political scientists, city planners, public officials, and sociologists.





Capt. Fred Way, Jr. of the Inland Rivers Library

## CINCINNATI'S INLAND RIVERS LIBRARY

The Inland Rivers Library was established in 1955 by an agreement between two organizations, the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. In 1941 the Sons and Daughters established a museum at Marietta, Ohio, devoted to river history. While collecting display material for the museum they also acquired a large number of books, letters and pamphlets dealing with steamboats and river subjects. The Sons and Daughters realized the importance of this material as a source of research, but were in no position to have it cataloged and put to use. In 1955 the president of the organization, Captain Fred Way, Jr. and the head of the Cincinnati Public Library discussed the possibility of forming the Inland Rivers Library with this material as its nucleus. The membership of the Sons and Daughters agreed to the establishment of the Inland Rivers Library and the materials from Marietta were brought to Cincinnati. To them were added maps, books and documents dealing with the rivers that had already been acquired by the Cincinnati Public Library. The Inland Rivers Library is housed in the Rare Book Room of the Cincinnati Public Library. The Rare Book Room staff consists of four people, one of them working exclusively with the Inland Rivers collection.

The Inland Rivers Library is interested in all aspects of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries during their period of commercial navigation (from about 1800 to the present) including the following: flatboat, keelboat and steamboat development; the decline of the passenger trade and the rise of the barge towing industry; the development of the locks and dams from the early private attempts to the present system; and the role of the Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, the Steamboat Inspection Service and many other agencies involved in making river traffic safer. The Library has collected information on river towns, particularly the influence the river had on their development. Since 1955 it has acquired over ten thousand photographs of steamboats, steamboat interiors, views of river towns and similar subjects. It maintains a clipping file of newspaper articles from the larger cities on the inland rivers in order to have as complete an account as possible of what is happening on the rivers today. Maps, prints, city directories, blueprints, phonograph records and tape recordings, and any other materials that may be of help to people studying the river are of interest to the Library.

Manuscript material consists of letters, waybills, inspection papers, journals and logs kept by captains, pilots and engineers, in addition to account books kept by steamboat clerks and by businessmen on the river. A recent manuscript acquisition is a log kept by Captain Charles L. Ackley on the gunboat Tyler during most of 1865. The Tyler was part of the Union fleet of river gunboats during the Civil War. About thirty boxes of material dealing with many different aspects of the river are included here.

In 1968 Mr. Clyde Bowden, who at that time was in charge of the Inland Rivers Library, compiled a catalog of the collection. The catalog consists of photo reproductions of catalog cards and is being sold by the library. The material in the collection is listed in the library's card catalog by author, title and subject; in the printed catalog by main entry only. Each year the Inland Rivers Library publishes an annual report which is sent to the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen and to anyone else who might be interested.

The Rare Book Room cataloger is responsible for cataloging the Inland Rivers material. The photograph collection is mainly of steamboats; these are filed alphabetically by the name of the boat. A few subject headings for some classes of boats and for some boat-related subjects do exist. Pamphlet material is arranged by author only. The library has had neither the time nor the staff to make subject cards for this material, consequently it is less accessible than it should be.

The library's main purpose is to provide research materials for anyone who is doing work on the rivers, and is happy to answer any questions presented on the rivers or on the collection.

Thomas G. Addison  
Librarian, The Public Library  
of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

## RECORDS MANAGERS ARE ORGANIZED

The 15th annual conference of The American Records Management Association, an international organization with over 1,400 members and 29 local chapters in the United States and Canada, will be held in the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles during October 11-14, 1970. It is expected to draw over 400 registrants plus many additional observers. Represented in such Ohio cities as Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, ARMA members are employed by over 1,300 business and government organizations as administrators, systems managers, educators, consultants, and specialists in form design, correspondence control, file systems, microfilming, data processing, records retention and disposition and archives administration. The paperwork field is covered from creation through cremation.

In pursuit of the scientific approach to solving paperwork and information management problems, ARMA members participate in chapter meetings and annual conferences, panel discussions, workshops and field trips, receive ARMA publications at reduced rates, and a free subscription to RECORDS MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY (\$7.50 per year to non-members). They have access to free employment and speakers' bureaus, develop valuable contacts with colleagues, and benefit from recognition as professional records administrators whose image ARMA promotes.

## PACE-SETTING ARCHIVES GUIDE UNDERWAY

The need for a state-wide guide to manuscripts and archives had long been discussed by various members of the Society of Ohio Archivists. Such a research tool was seen as an invaluable aid to students, professional historians, librarians, and archivists. The rapid expansion of graduate education in Ohio's universities, coupled with the absence of up-to-date guides to the state's various manuscript repositories, presented serious problems to potential researchers. In an effort to remedy this situation, the SOA officially adopted as a project the compilation of a **Guide to Manuscripts and Archives in Ohio**.

In June 1969 David Larson proposed to the SOA Council that it undertake the compilation of the guide. During the discussion which followed it was agreed that if this guide were to be of the greatest value, it should include the full range of unpublished manuscripts and archives. In addition to the holdings of libraries, historical societies, college and university archives, an effort would have to be made to include descriptions of archives maintained by the institution of origin, e.g. industries, businesses, civic and service organizations. Kermit J. Pike, Vice President of the SOA, was charged with the responsibility of editing this guide.

Because of the tremendous scope of this project, the need for the cooperation of a number of institutions was obvious. At least six institutions, each representing a geographical area of the state, were needed to insure successful completion of the guide. During the ensuing months an effort was made to enlist the cooperation of a number of historical societies and universities (through departments of history). Specifically what was sought was their formal commitment to follow through with the project once it was launched, to appoint a person as associate editor and give him time to work on this project, and to make available some funds to be used for field representatives, travel allowance, or a combination of both. Even with these stipulations, the response was enthusiastic.

By September 1969 six institutions sent representatives to a meeting held at the Ohio Historical Society. At this time, discussion concentrated on the responsibilities of the participants and the design of the data sheet. The editor was to be responsible for arranging the data sheets, supervising the preparation of an index, and preparing the guide for publication. The associate editors were to be responsible for collecting data on institutions within their geographical areas and supervising field representatives. The field representatives, if available to the associate editors, were actually to visit institutions, analyze the archives and fill out data sheets.

The data sheet is a three-page form which includes one sheet for information on the repository or institution, e.g. name, address, photo-duplication services, hours the material is available to researchers, and types of finding aids employed. The second sheet consists of an analysis of the collection(s), and a third sheet is provided for editorial comments of the field representative or associate editor.

A crucial matter was the establishment of geographical areas of responsibility. An attempt was made to equalize the tasks of the associate editors. The two factors considered were the number of counties and population. Consequently, the area with the largest population (North Northeast) is responsible for the fewest number of counties. The areas with smaller populations include more counties, and therefore have more distance to cover (see accompanying map).

A time schedule was established which called for two phases - compiling and editing. The compiling phase, begun in September 1969 is to last until September 1971. During this period each associate editor is to have completed filling out data sheets (approximately 500) for each institutional archives and manuscript repository within his area. Also during this phase, the associate editors are to meet periodically to compare notes, discuss problems, and report on the progress they have made. The editing phase is scheduled for the period from September 1971 to August 1972, with publication by the SOA to follow as soon as possible.

AREA	POPULATION	COUNTIES
1. North Northeast	2,627,000	6
2. Central Northeast	2,102,000	15
3. South Southwest	1,477,000	9
4. Central	1,288,000	10
5. Northwest	1,353,000	21
6. Central Southwest	1,224,000	9
7. Southeast	722,000	18





A second meeting of the associate editors was held in Columbus early in February 1970. Four of the five associate editors, whose institutions had previously agreed to participate in the guide project, reported on the progress that they had made. The form and content of the data sheet was also discussed and, for the most part, was maintained as originally designed. In attendance were representatives of two other institutions which were invited to join in the effort.

Since the February meeting, the two additional institutions have agreed to cooperate on the guide project, making a total number of seven. The SOA is deeply indebted to these institutions for their support and to the associate editors who have demonstrated a willingness to work. They, of course, look forward to the cooperation of all SOA members throughout the state. The associate editors are as follows:

- AREA 1. Kermit J. Pike, Chief Librarian  
The Western Reserve Historical Society
- AREA 2. Dr. George W. Knepper, Professor of History  
University of Akron
- AREA 3. Mrs. Lee Jordan, Librarian  
Cincinnati Historical Society
- AREA 4. Mrs. Andrea D. Lentz, Curator of Manuscripts  
Ohio Historical Society
- AREA 5. Watt P. Marchman, Director  
Rutherford B. Hayes Library
- AREA 6. James T. Dodson, Head Librarian  
Wright State University
- AREA 7. Dr. Thomas H. Smith, Assistant Professor of History  
Ohio University



Dr. Allen Price, OHS Statesmen Papers

## GRANT FOR OHIO STATESMEN PAPERS

The archives and manuscripts division of the Ohio Historical Society has been granted \$5,000 for the first six months of a proposed eighteen month project to preserve and catalog the papers of the fifty Ohio Governors, United States Senators, and Congressmen which are part of the Society's manuscripts holdings. The Ohio Control Board allocated \$20,000 for a special fund to insure that this group of collections would be ready for extensive use shortly after the Society moves to the new Ohio Historical Center.

An experienced manuscripts specialist, Dr. Allen T. Price, who has undertaken several projects in the manuscripts department during the past five years, will supervise the work of the project staff, which is composed of three half-time manuscripts processors and an oral history transcriber.

Dr. Price will also compile a reference guide to source materials relating to Ohio political leaders which will be published by the Ohio Historical Society during the summer of 1971. The guide will be a biographical directory, arranged in alphabetical order under the name of each political leader. Each entry will state brief biographical information, followed by an annotated list of the figure's manuscripts collections, biographies, memoirs, diaries, writings, and photograph collections. A series of appendices will include chronological lists of the governors, senators, representatives, mayors of major cities, state and county party chairman, state legislative leaders, editors of politically powerful newspapers, and Ohioans who have held national offices.

The fund further provides for the repair of damaged documents in the fifty collections at the Society's new restoration laboratory and for supplementary oral history tape recordings with living political leaders. When the project is completed in a year and a half, the Ohio Historical Society will have detailed inventories to many of the collections in the Ohio Statesmen Papers, thus greatly aiding researchers who are working in the field of state and national political history.



New Ohio Historical Society

## RESTORATION LABORATORY COMES TO OHIO

The new Ohio Historical Center, the Columbus headquarters of the Ohio Historical Society, will have as part of its archives-library complex a fully equipped restoration laboratory. The modern twelve million dollar Center features a three floor archives-library block which is suspended above the spacious museum and plaza levels. Within this windowless research center portion – which houses the archives and manuscripts division, the library division, and the publications department – are three large rooms that will serve as the restoration laboratory.

The laboratory, only the third such facility in the midwest (the other two are at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield and Minnesota State Archives in St. Paul), will be the best equipped laboratory in the midwest and one of the finest in the country. Ample space has been provided for all restoration work, including fumigation, dusting, hand cleaning, repairs, pettifogging, pressing, deacidification, lamination, and binding. Noteworthy pieces of equipment include a specially constructed humidification chamber, a hand-repair area with a built-in ventilation hood, a deacidification room, and an Arbee laminator.

A professional documents restorer will be employed when the Ohio Historical Center opens to the public in late August. Plans call for the lab to be used on a priority basis for first, the Ohio Historical Society; second, the other members of the proposed Ohio Network of American History Research Centers; and third, any other educational or cultural institution in the state.

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### SOA Annual Meeting (Cont. from Pg. 1, Col. 1)

Members will make their own arrangements for the overnight stay. A block of rooms will be reserved in the SOA's name in Fremont at the Fort Stevenson Motel and the Holiday Inn. Registrants should contact these motels directly. The ten dollar registration fee includes all expenses except the motel.

On Monday morning the members will convene at the Hayes Library for a presentation by Dr. Daniel Reed, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Dr. Reed will talk on the theme "Presidential Libraries in the United States." Following a question and answer period after Dr. Reed's presentation, the SOA will conduct its 1970 annual business meeting. The officers will give a status report on the organization's activities during the year and plans for the coming academic year. The election will be held at which time the three offices and the two open council positions will be filled. William Bigglestone and Stephen

Morton, the two incumbent council members, are in charge of presenting the slate of nominees and supervising the election.

A special luncheon will be served at the Rutherford B. Hayes home, which is adjacent to the Hayes Library and Museum. The afternoon program will be a tour of the newly-expanded Library and Museum Building by its Director, Watt P. Marchman. Hayes recently completed a \$600,000 addition to both the library and museum portions. At the beginning of the tour Mr. Marchman will outline the development and holdings of the nation's first Presidential Library.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the meeting. The program and registration forms may be obtained by writing Dr. Kenneth Davison, Department of American Studies, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio 44883.



# New Archives Program for Northwest Ohio

The origin of the Northwest Ohio-Great Lakes Research Center dates back three years. At that time David Larson, state archivist, proposed establishing a statewide network of regional depositories in which to house county governmental records. The History Department at Bowling Green, with an expanded graduate program in the offing, and recognizing a national void in the development of state and local history, saw the merit in Mr. Larson's plan and, accordingly, Dr. Richard J. Wright, a professional historian, was brought in to set up such a center.

Dr. Wright, though not an Ohio historian in the strictist sense, is an authority on Great Lakes maritime history, and over two decades has collected the largest documentary holding of its kind in the country. Thus the newborn research center is able to satisfy still another much-neglected area of our national and regional scene. The collection includes a thousand volumes, 25,000 photos, plus innumerable pamphlets and manuscripts, and approximately 45,000 individual ship "genealogies" dealing with vessels engaged in commerce on the inland lakes. Recently the Center also acquired the Arthur C. Frederickson Memorial Collection from Frankfort, Michigan. This fine maritime collection brought to Bowling Green an additional 500 volumes and 5,000 photographs of the lake shipping scene. It includes many lighthouse and ships' logs, lifesaving service journals, and other documents relating to Lake Michigan.

The Center has already begun to microfilm the vessel abstracts and enrollments of the lake customs districts housed in the National Archives. Thus far it has those for Buffalo (1816-1896) and Cleveland (1867-1910). Also, the Center is currently negotiating with the Great Lakes Historical Society for an academic relationship which could form a complete historical picture, i.e., the scholarly research and documentary holdings of the Center, and the artifact collection and journal of the Society, **Inland Seas**.

The Center has been active in the Northwest Ohio aspect of its interests, but to date priority has been given to negotiating with various counties. Present plans call for twenty-one counties in the northwest quadrant of the state to be represented at Bowling Green. Each of the counties has been visited and the score presently reads "18 with a positive interest, 2 lukewarm, and 1 neutral." Several of the counties are now circulating a "cut-off" form to determine exactly what material will be retained by the departments that make up county government. The Center is interested in everything except "dog licenses and vehicle registrations." Realizing the many unforeseen pitfalls in such a project, Mr. Gust Skordas, of the Maryland Hall of Records, was approached and he has agreed, in an advisory capacity, to help organize a catalog system based on his own experience in an identical successful project in Maryland.

Though still in its formative stage, the Center is staffed by four people and has the encouragement and voluntary help of many others. Currently the center operations are housed in 802 University Library. Though scheduling of regular hours is about a year away, accommodations will be made on an individual request basis. The Center is in an unusual situation in that it has room

to expand into the former library building which is ideally suited to accommodate the bulk of records that will be brought to the campus.

Future plans in the Northwest Ohio area are three-fold. The first is acquisition and cataloging of county governmental records. Secondly, the Center hopes to develop a substantial local newspaper holding—this to "humanize" the governmental records. Thirdly, the Center will make a concentrated effort to acquire papers of state senators, representatives, and United States Congressmen from this part of the state. The third category will also include other manuscript material such as business records, photographs, diaries, and other documentary evidences of life in Northwest Ohio.

The theme of the Center is to "compliment rather than compete" with existing archival institutions, and as a public institution, to serve the scholar, student, and interested citizen.

Dr. Richard J. Wright  
Bowling Green State University

## Research Opportunities Available at Presidential Libraries

The Department of History of Notre Dame University, the Society of American Archivists and the National Archives and Records Service (Region 5) are cooperating in the presentation of a symposium on using the resources of the Presidential Libraries. It will be held on Friday, October 30, 1970 in the Continuing Education Center on the Notre Dame campus. An informal gathering of participants and those arriving the afternoon of October 29 is also being planned for that evening.

The program will consist of an address by Dr. Herbert Angel, Deputy Archivist of the United States, on the development of the system of Presidential Libraries, its current status, and plans for the future. Representatives from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and the Herbert Hoover Library will present papers on the holdings and operation of their institutions and a panel of scholars who have conducted research projects at a Presidential Library will discuss their experiences. Time will be available for general discussion and some individual research projects may be pursued at the Thursday evening session and as the opportunity arises during the day's sessions.

Registration is \$6.00 and includes coffee breaks and lunch. Rooms are available at the Morris Inn on campus at \$12.00 single and \$17.00 double. Motel accommodations are within a two-mile radius and rates vary from \$11.00 single to \$19.00 double. A printed program is to be prepared in September, 1970, and will be mailed to members of the Society of American Archivists, Society of Ohio Archivists, Michigan Archivists Association, and departments of history at colleges and universities in the states comprising Region 5 of NARS (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Wisconsin). Others desiring to receive a program should send their request to the following address:

Regional Archives Branch  
Federal Records Center  
7201 South Leamington Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60638

American Jewish Archives and Gerald Newborg of the Ohio Historical Society each spoke and answered questions from the audience.

This meeting was the fourth fall workshop held by archivists in Ohio. On October 24, 1966, Bruce Harding, then Archivist of Ohio State University, sponsored a conference on "The Role of College and University Archives" with J.E. Boell, of the University of Wisconsin as the featured speaker. This meeting was so successful that a second workshop for college archivists was sponsored by Ruth Helmuth of Case Western Reserve University at Gwinn (former Cleveland residence of William Gwinn Mather) in October of 1967, with Dr. Clifford Shipton of Harvard University and Dr. Phillip Mason of Wayne State University as participants. The response to both of these meetings inspired the formation of a Steering Committee in February 1968 to plan a more permanent organization.

Six members of the Steering Committee signed a Statement of Founding, which established the Society as of July 1, 1968, to be governed by the Steering Committee until a more formal organization could be adopted. On October 28, 1968, a Workshop on Preservation, co-sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service and the Society of American Archivists, was held at Ohio Wesleyan University. It was arranged by John Reed, with James Gear of the National Archives and Clark Nelson of the Mayo Clinic as speakers. A constitution for the Society and a slate of officers were presented to the Society for approval at the first spring meeting, May 5, 1969, at the Ohio Historical Society. The theme of this meeting was "New Frontiers for Archive-Manuscript Repositories," and the national speakers and their topics were: Fred Shelley of the National Historical Publications Commission on Microfilm Publication, F. Gerald Ham of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin on Computer Applications, and Gould P. Coleman of Cornell University on Oral History.

Our statement of founding indicated that the purposes of the Society would be to provide for an "exchange of information, the coordination of activities and the improvement of professional competence in archives in the state of Ohio." This newsletter will supplement our spring and fall meetings in fulfilling those purposes.

The current officers of the SOA are president, David R. Larson, Chief of the Archives and Manuscripts Division of the Ohio Historical Society; vice president, Kermit J. Pike, Chief Librarian of The Western Reserve Historical Society; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. D.E. Helmuth, Archivist of Case Western Reserve University. Serving on the Council are Mrs. Lee Jordan, Librarian of the Cincinnati Historical Society; Thomas H. Smith, Assistant Professor of History at Ohio University; William Bigglestone, Archivist of Oberlin College; and Stephen Morton, Rare Book Librarian of Bowling Green State University.

## EFFECT OF THE 1969 TAX LAW ON MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES

The Tax Reform Act of 1969 passed by Congress in December and signed by President Nixon on December 31, 1969, raises important questions to all manuscript repositories in Ohio and throughout the nation. Lester Carpenter, writing in the *Washington Star*, says that the sponsor of the new provisions, Senator John J. Williams (R-Del.) was aiming the law at the Johnson Library. But the law was written so broadly that all manuscript repositories will be affected.

Briefly, a number of new rules have been adopted with respect to gifts of appreciated property. These new rules are contained in sections 170 (B) (1), (D); 170 (E) and 1221 (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended by sections 201 and 514 of the Act. Under the new Act, the donor of any book, manuscript, document, or other writing created or prepared by or for him will not be permitted to take a charitable contributions deduction for the amount of any unrealized appreciation in value of such property. Under the Act, it is not necessary for this property to be produced by the taxpayer if it was prepared for him by another. A letter or memorandum addressed to an individual is considered as prepared for him. This is a complete change from the old law when a taxpayer could take a charitable contributions deduction for the fair market value of the property, if he had created it or not.

The new tax law on letters and memorandums went into effect on July 25, 1969. No manuscripts accepted after that date can be appraised at the fair market value for tax purposes. A person donating such property to charity will only be allowed to take a charitable deduction equal to his cost basis of the property, which is nominal and includes such things as the cost of supplies and paper.

Several prominent tax lawyers including Cox, Langford & Brown of Washington, D. C. have studied the vaguely worded law and have provided many of the interpretations included in this article. The law, if not repealed or modified will have a great effect on museums, libraries and historians. Individual collections will either be held until the creator or original recipient of the documents dies and then the documents will be appraised by the inheritors at the fair market value, or they may be sold piecemeal to collectors who will pay top prices for fragments of the collection. Either of these actions would result in widespread dispersal and make the job of the historian very difficult. The immediate answer may lie in keeping the collections on deposit until the donor dies, but this is risky business for repositories.

David J. Rosenblatt  
Ohio Historical Society

# Recent Accessions by Ohio Institutions

## **Cincinnati Historical Society:**

Dr. Charles Louis Metz (1847-1926), Cincinnati physician and archaeologist. 8 folio boxes.

Pulte Medical College Records, 1867-1939. 16 vols.

William Howard Taft (1857-1939), U.S. President. 925 carbon typescripts of correspondence between Taft and his press secretary, 1908-1924, and other miscellaneous items relating to Taft.

## **Cleveland University Hospitals:**

Archives relating to Lakeside Hospital dating from the late 19th century and including administrative record center files, general administration record files and board of trustee minute books, historical files and individual biographies, and publications of the hospital.

## **Rutherford B. Hayes Library:**

Sandusky township records (non-current).

Fremont municipal records (non-current).

Sandusky county Justice of the Peace records, 1820-1900.

German Reformed Church of Baseline. Records, 1863-1842. Microfilm.

German Reformed Church of Chatfield. Records, 1853-1921. Microfilm.

Lyme Congregational-Presbyterian Church. Records, 1818-1960. Microfilm (3 rolls).

## **Kent State University Libraries:**

Charles A. Mosher, U.S. Representative from Ohio Public papers from 1960. 948 linear feet.

## **Historical Society of Olde Northfield:**

Deeds, letters, reminiscences relating to the history of the local region.

## **Miami University Library:**

Robert Cumming Schenck (1809-1890), Civil War General and U.S. Congressman from Ohio. 9 linear feet.

## **Ohio Historical Society:**

Clarence J. Brown (1895-1965), publisher of south-west Ohio newspaper chain; U.S. Congressman, 1937-1965. 52 linear feet.

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce (1920-1969). Professional business organization. 60 linear feet.

Gustavus A. Doren (1838-1905), Superintendent of Ohio Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth, 1861-1905. 6 linear feet.

James G. Johnson (1855-1936), Mayor of Springfield, 1895-1898; Justice on Ohio Supreme Court, 1911-1922. 5 linear feet.

Frank J. Lausche (b. 1895), Governor of Ohio, 1945-1947, 1949-1957; U.S. Senator, 1957-1969.

Samuel F. Lewis (1799-1854), Leader of free public school system in Ohio; state Liberty Party official. 1 linear foot.

Charles E. Ruthenberg (1882-1927), Head of Ohio Socialist Party, 1909-1919; executive secretary of the Communist Party USP, 1919-1927. 5 linear feet.

Robert Scott (1826-1900), Civil War General; Reconstruction Governor of South Carolina, 1868-1872. 4 linear feet.

Frederick C. Smith (1884-1956), U.S. Congressman from Marion, 1939-1951. 60 linear feet.

Kingslley A. Taft (b. 1903), judge on Ohio Supreme Court, 1948-1963; Chief Justice, 1963-present. 30 linear feet.

## **United Methodist Church (Dayton), Commission on Archives and History:**

Council of Secretaries of the Methodist Church. Minutes, 1940-1964. 2 linear feet

## **The Western Reserve Historical Society:**

Alta Social Settlement Cleveland, O. Records, 1900-1959. 3½ linear feet

Ashtabula County, O. Census Schedules, 1847, 1851, 1855, 1859, 1863, 1867, 1871, and 1875. 3½ linear feet.

Bainbridge Township, O. Records, 1822-1931. 3½ linear feet.

Patrick J. Burns, president of Carpenter's Local 105 (Cleveland). Papers, 1923-1945. 2½ linear feet.

Charles W. Chesnutt (1858-1932), Negro author. Papers, 1891-1932. 2½ boxes.

Citizens League of Greater Cleveland Records. 1896-ca. 1959. 10 linear feet.

Cleveland, O. Board of Elections. Registration Records, 1907, 1908. 22 linear feet.

Cleveland Area Church Federation. Records, 1912-1961. 12 linear feet.

Cleveland Metropolitan Services Commission. Records, 1958-1962. 3½ linear feet.

Greater Cleveland Growth Association (formerly Chamber of Commerce). Annual Reports and Chamber Minutes, 1881-1959. 38 linear feet.

John P. Greene (1845-1940), Cleveland lawyer, Ohio State Representative and Senator. Papers, ca. 1890-1920. 6 linear feet.

Marvin Clinton Harrison (1890-1954), Cleveland attorney. Papers, 1915-1952 (1937-1942). 8 linear feet.

Mayor's Advisory War Committee. Cleveland, O. Records, 1917-1920. 21 linear feet.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Cleveland Chapter. Records, ca. 1930-ca. 1968. approx. 30 linear feet.

Samuel Silbert, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge. Papers, ca. 1927-1968. approx. 50 linear feet.

Virgil C. Taylor (b. 1838), Cleveland realtor. Account Books, 1865, 1873-1905. 1 linear foot.