

Bureau of Public Records Collection and Research

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 1963 SURVEY



BY
WILLIAM SUMNER JENKINS, DIRECTOR
AND
FREDERIC KIRK, JR., RESEARCH ASSISTANT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL

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A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON
A SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS DEPOSITORIES OF
AFRICA, THE LEVANT AND WESTERN EUROPE

1963

Made to
THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

by

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and

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Dedicated to Margaret W. Graves

EDITORIAL PREFACE

The present Report more closely presents a work of joint authorship of the Director and his Assistant than any other of the series of Bureau publications; and consequently, for the first time, fully merits the appearance of both our names on the title page. Mr. Kirk, from the start, evinced an amazing grasp of the nature of our undertaking, an unusual capacity for sustained work and an inventive aptitude in refining the procedures and techniques of our pattern of field surveys. Again, in the drafting and writing of the manuscript, Mr. Kirk's literary contribution was a material one which resulted in a provocative exchange of ideas between the two of us.

The contributors are many to whom we are indebted and would express our gratitude for the building and development of the Bureau in their manifold ways. We are able to select for mention at this time, however, only a few as they epitomize in the fullest sense the origin, growth and development of the idea of the Bureau.

The late Dean William Whately Pierson of the Graduate School, magnificent Hispanist, scholar and historiographer, penetrating analyst of the elements of Political Science, and profound director of studies in Political Theory, whose thought as Architect of the Basic Document, ratified by the Board of Trustees, permeates the whole structure of the Bureau.

Charles Baskerville Robson, friend and close associate from the days of our graduate work, teaching colleague in the old days of the joint Department of History and Government. Dr. Robson and I both came under the learned influence of Dean Pierson and were the beneficiaries of his dedicated guidance in the writing of our doctoral dissertations. He and I found that we had much in common in our intellectual interests and in the trends of our thinking

about scholarship and the lines of development our new Department of Political Science should pursue. I have always gratefully thought of Pat Robson and myself as being engaged in a good fellowship of educational endeavor. He has borne the greater burden of making the necessary administrative and financial arrangements so that the wheels of the project could move steadily on with unrelenting fidelity. And most of all he has been an eloquent advocate abroad of the purposefulness and worth of our project to the learned world.

James Bennett Childs, for many years Chief of the Documents Division of the Library of Congress and in later years Specialist in Government Documents Bibliography is recognized uniquely as a scholar and a top authority on his subject and has probably done more for the development of a science of documentation than any living documentarian. I met Dr. Childs at the Library of Congress in 1935. I became the beneficiary of his unsurpassed knowledgeableness of the nature and content of documents and of the uncanny ability of his assiduous collecting activity. Through his world-wide host of life-long correspondents in the field he provided for me personal introductions over the many years of my peregrinations as an "itinerant microphotographer" in America and abroad; he was a principal figure in the inauguration of the joint State Records Microfilm Project; and a moving spirit throughout the course of RSUS and in the planning and execution of the research trips of the Bureau's Five-Year Plan of survey excursions to the countries of the Western Hemisphere in order to examine the preservation and utilization of their public records, looking toward a world-wide synthesis of record-keeping. The unbroken file of correspondence with Dr. Childs is by far the richest and most valuable in the Bureau's Archive; and kept intact in its mutual completeness will afford perhaps an unparalleled source for documentarians to delve into and use in the study of the historiography of documentation.

The late St. George L. Sioussat, former Chief of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, was responsible for beginning the negotiations that led to the pioneer joint project, soon after the Rockefeller Foundation had set up a revolving fund to enable the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress to experiment with the potentialities of microfilming basic source materials. Dr. Sioussat had long been interested in continuing the publication of the series of Colonial Records down through the period of the Confederation. Through his membership in the Maryland Historical Society he had learned from Dr. Roberson of my early researches on Constitutional Amendments; and from the present Director, Morris Radol, he had learned of the experimental trip of 1930 of Fremont Shepherd and myself to microfilm the early legislative journals of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. He decided that an initial project, filming the legislative journals of all thirteen States of the Confederation, would be a feasible and worthwhile job; and sold the idea to Luther Evans, Chief Assistant and later Librarian of Congress, whose experience as Director of the mammoth Historical Records Survey gave him prescience of the potential of microfilming and led him to be a strong advocate of the project and supporter of its execution and expansion. Dr. Sioussat assumed the role of guardian angel over the project and exerted a certain calm restraint and control over what many considered at times to be an inclination toward visionary extravagances. With Mrs. Julia Sioussat, a kinswoman of mine, he made their household my Washington home. Owing to his wide acquaintanceship among archivists and historians and his great store of archival knowledge, he liberally bestowed upon me a rich archivistic endowment; and from his matchless personal library he passed on to the Bureau's Library quantities of these valuable works.

Allan Nevins, Dean of American Historiographers, early began to express

an interest in microfilming as a process of sub-publication of the basic source materials of history and paid me the favor of discussing with me on a number of occasions, in his home, in his New York clubs and at the Huntington Library, ways and means and the proper media for giving the Bureau scholarly publicizing. His abiding faith repeatedly expressed by letter has been one of my chief sources of stimulation and encouragement to endure in the endeavor; and for this I express to him profound gratitude. Even as I write this, there comes a heartening note from him:

I have now read more carefully than the first time the extremely interesting report you sent me on your research trip in 1963. I envy you all that you saw and heard, and the relationships you formed with so many important men. You seem to me to be doing one of the most useful works of our time.... As you may wish to send this revealing and stimulating Report to other men, I return it with many thanks and with warm, personal regards to you.

Both Mr. Kirk and I wish to express our deep appreciation to Miss Mary Huntington Coley, Editorial Assistant and Secretary for the Bureau, for the very dedicated and excellent service she rendered the authors in preparing and typing the manuscript for publication. On joining the staff of the Bureau, Miss Coley immediately demonstrated a fine ability for organizing the materials and soon overcame their comparative unfamiliarity to her. With diligent application, a keen eye for detail, and an expert knowledge of English language structure, she has been of immense value to us in seeing our first rough draft through to final completion and a state of readiness for publication.

WILLIAM SUMNER JENKINS

Chapel Hill, N. C.

June, 1966

EDITORIAL NOTE

In bringing out a Report of this sort, dealing with so many different sorts of places, persons and languages, certain factors must be taken into consideration.

As is customary, the English form of place-names has been adopted if in common usage, but they remain in their own languages when part of a title.

Acting on competent advice, it was decided, because of the limitations of the typewriter, to omit all accent marks, rather than attempt to have them inserted badly and laboriously by hand. Though this may come as a surprise to some readers, it is hoped that those familiar with the languages may be able to supply them in their own minds, and that those who are not may not feel the lack too greatly.

The Bibliographical Notes relating to the text have been grouped together at the rear, rather than placed on the pages of the text, for the same reason, the numbers, in both places, being set off by parenthesis, instead of being raised above the lines. To facilitate reference, therefore, cross-references to the appropriate pages have been inserted in brackets, following each item, both in the Bibliographical Notes and in the Appendix.

A list of Institutions Visited will be found at the close; since the Table of Contents is arranged geographically and chronologically, these have been grouped according to type and on a partially alphabetical basis, although complete alphabetization was not possible.

It is hoped that these arrangements will facilitate the use and enjoyment of this Report to scholars and all internationally-minded people everywhere.

CONTENTS

EDITOR'S PREFACE		v
EDITORIAL NOTE		ix
FOREWORD		xiii
INTRODUCTION		xvii
PRELIMINARIES		1
PORTUGAL	Lisbon	4
SPAIN	Simancas	8
	Madrid	10
	Barcelona	13
	Seville	19
MOROCCO	Rabat	24
SENEGAL	Dakar	27
NIGERIA	Lagos	29
	Ibadan	31
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	A Summary	32
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	Johannesburg	34
	Pretoria	35
	Cape Town	38
FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND	Salisbury	40
ETHIOPIA	Addis Ababa	43
EGYPT	Cairo	46
LEBANON	Beirut	48
CYPRUS	Nicosia	50
TURKEY	Ankara	54
	Istanbul	57
GREECE	Athens	59

CONTENTS

ITALY	Rome	64
	Pisa	67
	Florence	68
	Milan	69
SWITZERLAND	Zurich	70
	Bern	74
	Geneva	76
LUXEMBOURG	Luxembourg	81
BELGIUM	Brussels	84
FRANCE	Paris	91
ENGLAND	London	97
ICELAND	Reykjavik	105
UNITED STATES	Washington	110
	Chapel Hill	111
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES		113
ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY		116
APPENDIX		117
INSTITUTIONS		137

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

FOREWORD

The 1963 research trip undertaken by Dr. Jenkins and his assistant, Mr. Frederic Kirk, was an arduous and ambitious one, covering as it did Africa, the Near East, and parts of Western Europe. The purposes and results of this trip are most vividly and comprehensively covered in this preliminary report, which should be required reading for all specialists in the fields of governmental and archival matters and should also be very illuminating and entertaining to the lay reader.

This trip actually had its inception when Dr. Jenkins concluded back in 1939 that a complete collection of state documents should be made available in one place, providing a rich and rewarding laboratory for graduate students in American government. This decision led to his further decision to microfilm otherwise unobtainable state journals to fill the gaps in the collection at the University of North Carolina.

It is not possible in this context to relate the developments which have occurred since Dr. Jenkins undertook his first venture into the field of microphotography in the spring of 1940. In summary I will point out that in 1941 the Library of Congress and the University of North Carolina launched a cooperative project-- known as the "Records of the States of the United States," which culminated in the establishment of the Bureau of Public Records Collection and Research at the University of North Carolina, with Dr. Jenkins as its Director. A five-year

plan was subsequently initiated to project "The Records of the States of the United States" as an example of desirable preservation of precious and perishable documents to other countries of the world. And thereby began Dr. Jenkins' annual trips to fulfill this purpose.

It has been my pleasure and privilege as Dr. Jenkins' Representative in the U. S. Congress to facilitate his travels by contact with American diplomatic offices abroad, for the purpose of arranging his communication with appropriate officials of other countries in places of Archives, Parliamentary and other official libraries, and Bureaus of Governmental Research. My files are filled with correspondence to and from American Embassies and Consulates regarding Dr. Jenkins' trips, which indicates deep interest in and appreciation of the purposes of his research travels. He has given generously of his time and his physical and financial resources in these strenuous travels in order to bring the message of the Bureau to other lands.

I am very much interested in the fine and unique records collection of the Bureau at the University of North Carolina relating to the states of the United States, and I am sure that future generations of scholars and teachers will be deeply indebted to Dr. Jenkins. However, I want to point up a larger concept and ideal in Dr. Jenkins' work, which is most timely and to me especially appealing and important. That is, his decision to use the work of the Bureau in assembling microfilm records of basic state documents as a tool for forging international friendship and understanding between countries and for making further impressions on the foot-path toward peace. Dr. Jenkins is interested not only in the preserva-

tion of documents; he is concerned with the preservation of the peace of the world.

The idea, though tremendous in execution, is actually simple in genesis. For in fostering this common interest in the preservation of state documents, Dr. Jenkins hopes that nations will gain an insight into the background and motivations of other countries as well as of their own. This common interest, he hopefully believes, will result in a cultural link which will cement understanding, tolerance, and friendship among the nations of the world.

In Boswell's Life of Johnson, the biographer quotes the great lexicographer as saying: "As the Spanish proverb says, 'He who would bring home the wealth of the Indies, must carry the wealth of the Indies with him.' So it is in traveling; a man must carry knowledge with him, if he would bring home knowledge."

In his 1963 journey, as in all his research travels, William Sumner Jenkins, who did indeed visit the Archives of the Indies in Sevilla, brought back with him the wealth of the Indies, because he took the wealth of the Indies with him.



Horace R. Kornegay
Member of Congress
North Carolina Sixth District

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the ages the chief barriers to man's attainment of a knowledge and understanding of himself and his fellowmen have been the erosion and scattering of the records of his past, distance and the inadequacies of communication. It has been the special function of archivists and keepers of public records to reduce and surmount the first of these barriers. In their dedicated efforts modern technology is providing many useful devices, among which microphotography may be regarded as central.

Professor William Sumner Jenkins was one of the first to discover and exploit microphotography in the collection and preservation of the public documents of the United States of America. The secret of his success in this is no doubt to be seen in the combination he made of new techniques with the oldest and most indispensable device of the collector -- the personal search for and pursuit of scattered items wherever they may be found. In an undertaking sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the University of North Carolina and supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, he succeeded in bringing together on microfilm the early records of the States of the Union in the now well-known microfilm collection of states' records, The Records of the States of the United States.

To carry forward the work of making public documents conveniently and representatively available to scholars, the Bureau of Public Records Collection and Research was established at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1956. A significant part of Professor Jenkins' work as Director of this Bureau consists in his efforts to overcome the barriers of dis-

tance and inadequate communication which mitigate against effective cooperation among archivists and keepers of public records, who are active in all parts of the world but often in a disheartening state of isolation from their fellows in other countries. It is characteristic of the instinct and spirit of Professor Jenkins as an inveterate collector that he has employed the old collector's method of exploration by personal visit also to the task of developing communication and cooperation among the archivists of the world.

The report presented in the pages which follow contains the record of the third of his exploratory voyages to distant lands, the two former ones having taken him to Western Europe and Latin America, respectively. The highly personal flavor of the narrative of this journey, together with the rich fund of data also contained in the report, will no doubt refresh as well as inform his colleagues — both those who collect and preserve documents professionally and those who make use of these sources in their research.

It is a particular pleasure to me to commend this new product of Professor Jenkins' zeal and skill, because it has been my good fortune to have been associated with his enterprises since the original microfilm project was planned in the Department of Political Science at Chapel Hill in the 1930's and was carried through to completion while I was Chairman of that Department in the period from 1942 to 1958. The Bureau remains an integral part of the structure of the work of the Department.

Charles B. Robson

Charles B. Robson
Kenan Professor of
Political Science

The University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N. C.