

J. G. Ollé

An Introduction
to British
Government
Publications

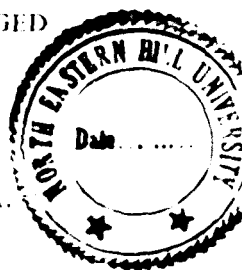
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SECOND EDITION

AN INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

SECOND EDITION
FULLY REVISED AND ENLARGED

By
JAMES G. OLLÉ, F.L.A.



LONDON
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A popular government can hardly be conducted without an abundance of published information; and a Ministry which professes to govern by popular consent is bound to supply its supporters with detailed information or expose itself to suspicion of inertness and negligence.

Austin Smyth, Librarian of the House of Commons, in the preface to Margaret E. Adam, John Ewing and James Munro (eds.), *Guide to the principal Parliamentary Papers relating to the Dominions 1812-1911*. Oliver & Boyd, 1913. vi.

The Government agree with the Fulton Committee in wishing to see more public explanation of administrative processes, a continuing trend towards more consultation before policy decisions are reached, and increasing participation by civil servants in explaining the work of Government to the public.

Information and the public interest. Cmd. 4089. 1969. para. 36

The man who can find nothing to interest him in the Stationery Office's list of publications must be either very erudite or very dull.

Marjorie Ogilvy-Webb. *The government explains: a study of the Information Services*. Allen & Unwin, 1965. 41.

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Preface to Second Edition

This book is an attempt to provide an elementary introduction to the entire range of British government publications. Inevitably, it is mainly concerned with those published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, but it refers, if only briefly, to those published otherwise, whether for sale or free distribution. Although I have had particularly in mind student librarians in the British schools of librarianship, I hope that the following pages may be of some assistance to anyone who may be interested in British government publications, a vast body of literature whose difficulties may have been overrated, but not, by any means, its importance.

In the seven years since this *Introduction* was first published, there have been several major changes and developments in the field of British government publications. Most of them, I am glad to say, are welcome.

The unrelenting increase in the number of government publications published each year may be viewed with mixed feelings by librarians who have to cope with them, but it is now a well-established democratic principle that governments should inform and advise, and, on the whole, British librarians are more inclined, nowadays, to consider how they may provide a wider selection of government publications than to bemoan the difficulties of tracing, procuring and handling them. As Mr Mallaber has said, basically these difficulties are not unique.

During the past seven years, there have been many changes in the machinery of government. These must now be regarded as inevitable and they are not peculiar to the United Kingdom. However, as the result of the most recent changes, the familiar names of several important government departments have disappeared from the current H.M.S.O. lists, among them the old established Board of Trade and the rather younger Ministries of Transport, Technology, and Housing and Local Government.

Regrettably, the number of government bookshops has not increased: in fact, one of them (the London bookshop in Oxford Street) has been closed. On the other hand, the sales organisation of H.M.S.O. has improved and further improvements have been promised.

All to the good—and this is partly due to a helpful “Selected Subscription” scheme inaugurated by H.M.S.O. in 1969—is the more generous provision of new British government publications in libraries. Thanks to this scheme, for the first time since the rate-supported public library came into existence, an appreciable number of public libraries is acquiring all H.M.S.O. publications, other than those of minor interest, on payment of an annual subscription.

Furthermore, the problem of obtaining old government publications no longer in print has been partially eased (one must make allowances for their cost) by various commercial publishers, in particular the Readex Microprint Corporation and the Irish University Press. Also, during this period, the bibliographical control of old government publications has been further strengthened by several unofficial retrospective bibliographies, compiled in Britain or in America.

Finally, there has been an unprecedented increase in the literature about British government publications. Much of this is on individual series, or on the publications available in particular subject areas, but there is also a new, authoritative, general study, namely, John E. Pemberton, *British official publications*, Pergamon Press, 1971, especially valuable as a meticulous guide to Parliamentary Publications. It should be noted, also, that there is a good deal of useful information on the printed records of Parliament, as well as on the original manuscript records, in Maurice F. Bond, *Guide to the records of Parliament*, H.M.S.O., 1971.

The literature on the handling of British government publications in libraries is still modest in extent, but it is likely to increase now that many public and non-public libraries are acquiring government publications more liberally than in the past.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the help I have received from colleagues in the library profession in gathering material for this book. Needless to say, they cannot be held responsible for the way in which I have made use of the information they kindly provided.

J. G. O.

*School of Librarianship,
Loughborough Technical College,
Leicestershire.*

September, 1972.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

In the Spring of 1962, a series of lectures on "Special materials in the library" was delivered in London, under the auspices of the Department of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic. The series included two lectures on government publications. Both were sensible and well-informed and their value has diminished very little over the years. Kenneth Mallaber, who gave the first lecture, posed the question "How special *are* government publications?" He suggested that, fundamentally, government publications are no different from other classes of material which librarians have to handle and that their "special" features have been over-emphasised to the point where they have created "a neurosis in our minds which calls for special lectures and special measures to handle them."¹

It is true that government publications are not difficult above all other publications, but there are several reasons why British government publications, at least, should be separately considered. Individually, these reasons may not amount to much; collectively they provide ample scope for lectures, courses and treatises such as those by John Pemberton and Professor and Mrs Ford. In brief, the justification for discussing British government publications may be found in their great number, their special and often unique importance, the way in which they are published and distributed, the official grouping of them into Parliamentary and Non-Parliamentary Publications, the exclusion of many of them from the British national bibliographies and the consequent necessity to use the separately published bibliographies of government publications, official and unofficial, and, lastly, the problems which arise in trying to organise large collections of government publications in libraries for the maximum benefit of readers.

Chapter 2

THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHERS

In the United Kingdom, as in many other countries, government publications are not issued exclusively by one central publishing department. Although, when we speak of British government publications, usually we mean those published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, not all government publications, by any means, are published, or even stocked, by the Stationery Office. H.M.S.O. does not, in fact, publish as many titles as either the Patent Office or the Ordnance Survey. Nevertheless, for reasons which will shortly become apparent, H.M.S.O. is bound to take precedence over the other publishing departments in any general review of government publications.

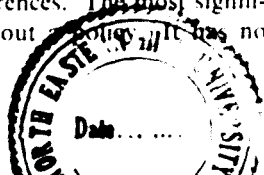
H.M.S.O.

H.M.S.O. was established, in 1786, to take over from private contractors the supply of stationery to government departments. Its publishing activities began modestly in the nineteenth century, not with Parliamentary Publications, as one might suppose, but with what are now called Non-Parliamentary Publications. H.M.S.O.'s responsibility for Parliamentary Publications came rather late and was assumed in stages—Acts of Parliament in 1887, the *Journal of the House of Lords* and the *Journal of the House of Commons* in 1907, and the *Official Report of the Parliamentary Debates* in 1909. Since then, the work of H.M.S.O.'s Publications Division has developed rapidly.

H.M.S.O. is of unique importance as a publisher in that it has the exclusive right to publish on behalf of Parliament.

It is interesting to compare H.M.S.O. with the commercial publishers. There are several striking differences. The most significant is that H.M.S.O. is a publisher without a policy. It has no

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Chapter 3

PARLIAMENTARY AND NON-PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

British government publications are officially divided into two broad classes, Parliamentary Publications and Non-Parliamentary Publications. For many years the difference between them was perfectly clear: the former were intimately concerned with the activities of Parliament and the latter were not. But since World War I, for reasons which will be explained later, the boundary between the two classes has become increasingly difficult to determine.

To many users of government publications this division of them, which is based on their administrative history, is of little or no significance, but anyone whose interest in government publications is more than casual is obliged to pay some attention to it, if only to make the most effective use of the various bibliographies of government publications, more especially those compiled primarily for official use.

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Fully to understand the nature of Parliamentary Publications it is necessary to have a basic knowledge of parliamentary procedure. This may be acquired without difficulty, as there is a wide choice of manuals on the subject. Two which have the combined advantages of being authoritative, up-to-date and inexpensive are Central Office of Information, *The British Parliament*, 7th edition, H.M.S.O., 1971 (C.O.I. Reference Pamphlet No. 33), which is an elementary outline, and Eric Taylor, *The House of Commons at work*, 8th edition, Penguin Books, 1971 (Pelican series), which provides as much information as any layman is likely to require. To these may be added Strathearn Gordon, *Our Parliament*, 6th edition, Cassell

Chapter 4

THE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Many years ago, in the preface to his now forgotten primer *A first book of English literature*, the omniscient George Saintsbury said: "No information that the book gives is intended to supersede, and all that it gives is intended to encourage and lead up to, the reading of the literature itself." If the word "investigation" is substituted for "reading," Professor Saintsbury's declaration may be used to indicate the purpose of the present chapter.

There are no formal, general guides to British government publications comparable to the general guides to the publications of the U.S. Government and it is not the purpose of this chapter to provide one. All that is attempted here is to illustrate more fully the observations made earlier on the nature, variety and usefulness of British government publications at large.

The publications selected for illustration have been drawn from those on sale and those distributed free, those published by H.M.S.O. and those published directly, publications in series, publications which are serials, publications intended for general circulation and publications addressed to particular sections of the community.

The chosen titles have been arranged under the names of the government departments and institutions from which they emanate, grouped under three headings: Social Sciences, Humanities, and Science and Technology. Where it seemed necessary, the purpose and activities of these departments and institutions have been briefly defined. Further information on these matters will be found in two H.M.S.O. C.O.I. publications, namely, *Britain: an official handbook*, published annually, and *The central government of Britain* (C.O.I. Reference Pamphlet No. 40), which is frequently revised.

Chapter 5

TRACING AND ACQUIRING NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

British government publications are only recorded selectively in the *British National Bibliography* and the national book-trade bibliographies. As many government publications are of very limited interest, one must concede that the representation of them in the national bibliographies is quite reasonable. The *B.N.B.*'s could be called generous. It has recently widened its coverage of H.M.S.O. publications, so that it now covers about a quarter of them. There is no strong reason why it should record the remainder.

The *B.N.B.* indicates its coverage of H.M.S.O. publications in the preface to its cumulated volumes. It does this, in fact, by listing the "categories of very specialised material" which are excluded, namely, Bills, House of Commons Papers relating solely to the business of the House and routine administrative publications, such as circulars, notices, orders and regulations. The *B.N.B.* does not record Ordnance Survey maps, Admiralty charts, or patent specifications. On the other hand, it does include a selection of the government publications which are distributed free.

Whitaker's policy, presumably, is to include only those H.M.S.O. publications which booksellers may be asked to supply. For some years, *Whitaker's Cumulative Book List* included in its classified section a special heading for government publications, but this has now been eliminated.

It follows, therefore, that the comprehensive official lists, catalogues and indexes of government publications are of unique importance, even although the control they exercise over government publications may be imperfect.

H.M.S.O. CATALOGUES

The lists and catalogues of H.M.S.O. publications fall into two groups. The first consists of those which H.M.S.O. refers to collectively as its "Catalogue service." (See the preliminary pages of

Chapter 6

TRACING AND ACQUIRING OLD GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The remarkable increase in historical studies after World War II soon created a demand for out-of-print source materials which libraries found difficult to meet. That the libraries of our new universities should have had little to offer was readily understandable; it was a deficiency they could not help. Unfortunately, research scholars discovered that many of our older libraries were also inadequate in this respect; either they had been unwilling, or unable, to acquire important books, periodicals and government publications when they were readily available, or they had acquired them only to discard them at a later date, under the conviction that they had served their purpose and would never be wanted again.

In recent years, therefore, libraries old and new have found themselves competing for a small and dwindling supply of frequently requested publications which have long been out-of-print.

The situation rapidly became worse, not merely because the number of historical research workers, both academic and amateur, grew from day to day, but also because historical studies moved forward in time to embrace the whole of the nineteenth century, for which the printed records are of enormous extent.

A generation ago, serious interest in the nineteenth century, more particularly in the Victorian period, was comparatively small. Only a few historians engaged on the history of the nation were interested in the nineteenth century, after the Napoleonic war, and local historians often by-passed it entirely. (There is a marked difference, for example, between the early and the recent volumes of the *Victoria County History*.) It is very different now.

In 1949, the late Humphry House, whose early death was a grievous blow to Victorian studies, published a paper called "Are

Chapter 7

THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Under the provisions of the *Government of Ireland Act, 1920*, a separate parliament and executive government were established for Northern Ireland, certain legal and fiscal powers being reserved to the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

The Northern Ireland Parliament met for the first time in June 1921. There are two Houses, the Senate and the House of Commons.

The publications of the government of Northern Ireland have their own special importance, although, of course, they are far fewer than the publications of the government at Westminster. But, with some changes in terminology, they follow a similar pattern. Non-Parliamentary Publications are called Departmental Reports and Papers and the old term Statutory Rules and Orders is used instead of Statutory Instruments.

The Parliamentary Publications and most of the Departmental Reports and Papers are published by H.M.S.O. Belfast, which issues two serial sales lists, namely, *Government of Northern Ireland: Monthly List of Publications* and *Government of Northern Ireland: Annual List of Publications*.

With a few exceptions, such as the *Ulster Year Book*, the government publications of Northern Ireland are not included in the H.M.S.O. lists and catalogues published in London and they are not stocked or supplied by any of the government bookshops in Great Britain. They are available only from the government bookshop in Belfast, or through booksellers.

There are official *Consolidated Lists of the Publications of the Government of Northern Ireland* for the periods 1921-1937 and 1938-1947.

For the benefit of students, research workers and librarians,

Chapter 8

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS IN LIBRARIES

Many articles on government publications are listed in H. G. T. Cannons' *Bibliography of library economy, 1876-1920*, but only one per cent relate to the provision of British government publications in British libraries. Most of the other articles are on American government publications in American libraries.¹ One may deduce from this, quite correctly, that before 1920, at least, government publications were not a very important feature of the stock of most British libraries.

There were two reasons for this. The first was the relatively small demand for government publications in public and academic libraries. The second was the dire poverty which afflicted these libraries before 1920 and, indeed, for many years after.

It would be wrong, however, to suggest that, before World War I, there was little interest at all in government publications. They were keenly scrutinised by members of what we now call "The Establishment." Many of the leading journalists and authors were well acquainted with the massive reports of the Parliamentary Select Committees. Several Victorian novelists Charles Reade and Anthony Trollope, for example—used them as raw material.² Not surprisingly, therefore, sets of *Hansard* and the *Sessional Papers* were to be found in the libraries of the larger clubs and in the private subscription libraries. The British Museum, of course, had a comprehensive collection of government publications, housed today in the Museum's State Paper Room, with the publications of foreign governments. But in the local public libraries government publications were, on the whole, poorly provided.

As recently as 1951, Professor Ford wrote, quite justly, that the collections of Parliamentary Papers in very many public libraries

Appendix A

ADDRESSES OF GOVERNMENT PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSHOPS

H.M.S.O.

In the United Kingdom, most H.M.S.O. publications are sold through the Government Bookshops. These shops, which are administered by H.M.S.O., also sell some of the British government publications which are not published by H.M.S.O. itself and a selection of the publications of various international organisations (see Appendix D).

The addresses of the government bookshops are as follows.

ENGLAND

- London:* 49 High Holborn, London WC1V. (This shop does not handle mail orders.)
P.O. Box 569, London SE1 9NH. (Address for mail orders for the London area.)
- Birmingham:* 258 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE.
- Bristol:* 50 Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3DE.
- Manchester:* Brazennose Street, Manchester M6O 8AS.

SCOTLAND

- Edinburgh:* 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR.

WALES

- Cardiff:* 109 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF1 1JW.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Belfast:* 80 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JY.

All government bookshops, with the exception of the London bookshop at High Holborn, accept orders by post. H.M.S.O. advises customers to send their orders to their nearest bookshop.

H.M.S.O. publications are also available through commercial booksellers, some of which have been appointed official agents. For details of agents at home and overseas, see any recent issue of the H.M.S.O. *Monthly Catalogue*.

Appendix B

ADDRESSES OF REPRINT PUBLISHERS

Irish University Press

Nineteenth century Parliamentary Papers in facsimile reprints.
Irish University Press, 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.
Irish University Press Inc., 2 Holland Avenue, White Plains, New York 10603.

Readex Microprint Corporation

Microprint reproductions of Parliamentary Publications from the eighteenth to the present century.
Readex Microprint Corporation, 5 Union Square, New York, N.Y. 10003.
Readex Microprint Ltd., 63 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3BG.

Oceana Publications

House of Lords Sessional Papers from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, partly reprint, partly microfilm.
Oceana Publications Inc., Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522.

Micro Methods

Selected Parliamentary and Non-Parliamentary Publications of the nineteenth century on microfilm.
Micro Methods Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

NCR Microcard Editions

Series of Calendars and Indexes published by the Public Record Office, in positive microfiche.
NCR Microcard Editions, 901 Twenty-Sixth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20037.

Frank Cass

Selected nineteenth century Parliamentary Papers and nineteenth century census reports.
Frank Cass & Co., Ltd., 67 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3BT.

David & Charles

Reprints of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map of England and Wales, with marginal notes.
David & Charles, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devonshire.

Appendix C

CITATION OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

There can be little doubt that librarians waste a good deal of time trying to identify British government publications from the incomplete information which readers too often provide. Librarians are not always guiltless themselves, as the staffs of the National Central Library and the Regional Library Bureaux are well aware.

Professor and Mrs Ford have included a special "Note on the citation of Parliamentary Papers" in their useful aid to students and research workers, *A guide to Parliamentary Papers*, 3rd edition, Irish University Press, 1972, 71-74.

Parliamentary Papers call for particular care and the Fords come to the heart of the matter when they say "References to Parliamentary Papers should be accurate, adequate and simple."

Where Parliamentary Papers are bound in sessional volumes, it is a boon to have full references to the session, the Paper number, the volume number and the page number for a requested item, but this seldom happens.

The minimum information which should be given when citing Parliamentary Papers and Acts of Parliament has been indicated previously, in Chapter 3. Briefly, for the Bills and Papers of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, it is important to give the dates of the session as well as the Paper number. For a Command Paper, it is helpful to give either the calendar year, or the dates of the session, in addition to the Paper number. For an Act of Parliament the calendar year only is necessary from 1963; before then the regnal year or years.

Non-Parliamentary Publications commonly provide less difficulty, but for all of them the calendar year should be given, in addition to the name of the relevant department, institution, or commission. (It should be remembered that the published evidence submitted to Royal Commissions is Non-Parliamentary nowadays.)

Since 1968, there has been an additional aid to the identification of British government publications. From April 1968, each government publication has been given a Standard Book Number and each issue of the annual *H.M.S.O. Catalogue of Government Publications* from 1968, and each issue of the *Monthly Catalogue* from January 1969, has included an index of Standard Book Numbers. There are similar indexes in the lists of Statutory Instruments compiled by the Statutory Publications Office.

As to government publications published before 1968, it should be evident, from what has been said earlier, more especially in Chapter 6, that some requests with inadequate citations received by librarians today are less difficult to handle than similar requests would have been twenty years ago, thanks to the helpful retrospective bibliographies compiled by Professor and Mrs Ford, Frank Rodgers, Mary Morgan, and Edward Di Roma and Joseph Rosenthal.

Appendix D

H.M.S.O. AS AGENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

H.M.S.O. is the sales agent in the United Kingdom for the publications of the Council of Europe, the European Communities, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and for the United Nations and its agencies.

These "agency publications" are listed by H.M.S.O. as follows:

Daily List

Under the heading "Publications sold but not published by H.M.S.O."

Monthly Catalogue

Entered in the Classified List under the names of the individual organisations; included in the index.

Monthly Select List

A selection of the more substantial publications is listed under the heading "Overseas and other publications."

Supplement to Annual Catalogue

Overseas publications are not included in the annual *Catalogue of Government Publications*, but in a separately published supplement to it called *International Organisations and Overseas Agencies Publications*. This supplement has an index.

H.M.S.O. does not stock all the sale publications of the organisations mentioned, or any which are distributed free.

H.M.S.O. is no longer an agent for the publications of the United States Government Printing Office.

Appendix E

FURTHER READING

Until recent years, the literature on British government publications was surprisingly small, but since World War II it has gradually increased to the point where hardly any important area has been entirely neglected. The work done on the history of Parliamentary Publications is outstandingly good and it is pleasant to note that some of it has been published by H.M.S.O., in the occasional series called "House of Commons Library Documents." This series was inaugurated in 1955. By the end of 1971 it included five titles concerning government publications and it is likely that others will follow.

The books, pamphlets and periodical articles mentioned below are confined to the more substantial references.

BACKGROUND

Parliamentary Procedure

There are many excellent works on parliamentary procedure, but some are more helpful than others as aids to the study of government publications, more especially Parliamentary Publications. The classic work is the one commonly referred to as "Erskine May," as it was originally written by Sir Thomas Erskine May (1815-1886), who was Clerk of the House of Commons 1871-1886. His famous treatise was first published in 1844. The latest edition is *Erskine May's treatise on the law, privileges and usage of Parliament*, 18th edition, edited by Sir Barnett Cocks, Butterworths, 1971.

Erskine May is expressly for reference. Lord Campion, *An introduction to the procedure of the House of Commons*, 3rd edition, Macmillan, 1958, is an authoritative textbook by a former Clerk of the House of Commons which is useful both for reference and for study. It is not, however, quite up-to-date. For recent developments see A. H. Hanson and Bernard Crick (eds.), *The Commons in transition*, Fontana-Collins, 1970, a symposium by members of the Study of Parliament Group, and C. J. Boulton, "Recent developments in House of Commons Procedure," *Parliamentary Affairs*, vol. 23, Winter 1969-1970, 61-71.

Kenneth Bradshaw and David Pring, *Parliament and Congress*, Constable, 1972, may be of value to American readers of this book, as it provides a well-informed comparison of the British and American systems of government. The authors are Clerks of the House of Commons.

Government Departments

For the time being, many of the textbooks on the central government of the United Kingdom are partially out-of-date, by virtue of the numerous changes in the machinery of government which have taken place over the past few years. The admirable *New Whitehall Series*, published by Allen & Unwin under the auspices of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, has been much affected by these changes. Several of the volumes so far published are on ministries which no longer exist, or which have new responsibilities. Nevertheless, the series as a whole remains useful for background information, especially when undertaking retrospective research among government publications.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The only large-scale general treatise on British government publications is John E. Pemberton, *British official publications*, Pergamon Press, 1971.

Mr Pemberton's declared purpose is to "describe within the context of the parliamentary and governmental processes from which they derive, all the different categories of British official publications" and "to demonstrate their value as sources of authoritative and often essential information."

The greater part of *British official publications* is devoted to Parliamentary Publications, which are admirably described and explained, with appropriate references to parliamentary procedure. Embedded in these chapters are several tables of reference value, namely, a table of regnal years (119-124), a concordance of Command Papers 1833-1968 (64-65), an alphabetical list of Royal Commissions 1900-1969 (75-85) and an alphabetical list of Departmental Committees, Working Parties and Tribunals of Enquiry 1900-1969 (162-188).

The section on Non-Parliamentary Publications is less satisfactory, as it relies too much on lists of titles transcribed from H.M.S.O.'s *Annual Catalogue*. But the merits of Mr Pemberton's book far outweigh its defects. It is clearly written, it is as up-to-date as it could be, and it is equipped with a detailed index. Like the other literature guides published by the Pergamon Press, it is illustrated with facsimiles of specimen pages of the more important publications described in the text.

Over the period August 1969 to November 1970, Mr Pemberton published an excellent series of articles on British government publications in the *Library World*. As he has used only a part of this material in his book, I have listed below those articles which usefully supplement it.

"Government Green Papers," *Library World*, vol. 71 (830), August 1969, 46-47, 49.

"Loose-leaf Statutes," *Library World*, vol. 71 (831), September 1969, 72-74.

"Privileged publications," *Library World*, vol. 71 (835), January 1970, 210-211.

"Crown copyright," *Library World*, vol. 71 (838), April 1970, 307-308.

"The case against the Sessional Indexes," *Library World*, vol. 72 (842), August 1970, 35-38.

Sidney Horrocks, *The state as publisher*, Library Association, 1952 (L.A. Pamphlet No. 10) was intended as "a librarian's guide" to the publications of H.M.S.O. In its day, this was a very useful outline, but it has now been

superseded by Pemberton's *British official publications*, except for the sections on arrangement, preservation and cataloguing, which are still worth reading.

H.M. Treasury, *Official publications*, H.M.S.O., 1958, is a slim pamphlet "intended to give civil servants a general description of the various types of papers produced by the Government or Parliament with which they are likely to be concerned, and of the arrangements made for their printing, presentation and publication." It is largely concerned with Parliamentary Publications. Although now in need of revision, this pamphlet is still useful for its background information and interesting for its views on the problem "Into which category should a paper fall" (paragraphs 48-51).

Parliamentary Publications

In addition to the detailed survey of Parliamentary Publications in Pemberton's book, there are several sources of information on particular aspects of them, mainly for the benefit of students and research workers.

Frank Rodgers and Rose B. Phelps, *A guide to British Parliamentary Papers*, University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science Occasional Papers No. 82, 1967, is a condensation of three chapters of a projected manual on British government publications. It covers all Parliamentary Publications other than Acts of Parliament. This is a well-informed, well-documented and lucid survey, but apart from some historical detail it has now been superseded by Pemberton.

P. Ford and G. Ford, *A guide to Parliamentary Papers*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1955, revised edition Irish University Press, 1972, was written "to assist students, researchers and those interested in public affairs who want to consult or read Parliamentary Papers." The Papers are discussed under three heads—"What they are," "How to find them" and "How to use them." The late Professor Charles Mowatt said of this *Guide* that "it renders any further exposition of the subject superfluous. This tribute is well deserved, although it is only fair to point out that certain aspects of the bibliography of Parliamentary Papers have been explored more fully by other scholars.

Forty years ago, Professor Hale Bellot published a pioneering study of "Parliamentary printing, 1660-1837," *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*, vol. 11, 1933-1934, 85-98. In recent years, Professor Bellot's work has been continued by Sheila Lambert in "Guides to parliamentary printing 1696-1834," *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*, vol. 38, 1965, 111-117 and "Printing for the House of Commons in the eighteenth century," *The Library* fifth series, vol. 23, March 1968, 25-46. See also the introduction to Sheila Lambert (ed), *List of House of Commons Sessional Papers 1701-1750*, List and Index Society, 1968 (Special Series, vol. 1) and Sheila Lambert, *Legislative procedure in eighteenth century England*, Cambridge University Press, 1971, a study based on the collection of printed Parliamentary Papers amassed by one of the first parliamentary agents.

Sessional Papers—Microprint Edition

An American scholar, Dr Edgar Erickson, had the difficult task of locating, identifying and collecting photographic copies of, the *House of Commons*

Sessional Papers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries for the Microprint edition published by the Readex Microprint Corporation. The problems he encountered are described in Edgar L. Erickson, "The Sessional Papers," *Library Journal*, vol. 78, January 1st 1953, 13-17 and Edgar L. Erickson, "The Sessional Papers: last phase," *College and Research Libraries*, vol. 21, September 1960, 343-358. (The latter article has been reprinted as a free publicity booklet by the Readex Microprint Corporation.) John Weatherford, "The Sessional Papers: an epilogue," *Library Journal*, vol. 88, April 15th 1963, 1630-1631, is a criticism of Dr Erickson's editorial labours and Edgar L. Erickson, "The Sessional Papers: an epilogue to an epilogue," *Library Journal*, June 1st 1963, 2208-2209 is his reply. See also Sheila Lambert's criticism of the reprint of the eighteenth century Papers in the editorial introduction to her *List of House of Commons Sessional Papers 1701-1750*, List and Index Society, 1968, ii-iii, and the note in Maurice F. Bond, *Guide to the records of Parliament*, H.M.S.O., 1971, 234.

Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons

The early history of the *Votes* has been thoroughly explored in Betty Kemp, *Votes and Standing Orders of the House of Commons: the beginning*, H.M.S.O., 1971 (House of Commons Library Document No. 8). Miss Kemp has shown that the earliest *Votes* were not impartially minuted but politically conceived.

Journal of the House of Commons

David Menhennet, *The Journal of the House of Commons: a bibliographical and historical guide*, H.M.S.O., 1971 (House of Commons Library Document No. 7), described earlier in Chapter 3, is a valuable aid to the use of the *Journal* and a readable contribution to parliamentary history.

Published Reports of the Parliamentary Debates

William Law, *Our Hansard*, Pitman, 1950, is largely a description of how the official *Hansard* is compiled and published today. On the history of the published debates see A. Aspinall, "The reporting and publishing of the House of Commons Debates, 1771-1834" in Richard Pares and A. J. P. Taylor (eds.), *Essays presented to Sir Lewis Namier*, Macmillan, 1956, and J. C. Trewin and E. M. King, *Printer to the House: the story of Hansard*, Methuen, 1952.

The bibliographical history of the published debates is unravelled in [John A. Woods] *A bibliography of Parliamentary Debates of Great Britain*, H.M.S.O., 1956 (House of Commons Library Document No. 2).

Statutes

Christopher Hughes, *The British Statute Book*, Hutchinson University Library, 1957, is a good general introduction to the legislative process, although on some matters (e.g., codification and citation) it is not up-to-date.

Delegated Legislation

Access to subordinate legislation, H.M.S.O., 1963 (House of Commons Library Document No. 5) is intended "to show where such legislation may be seen," i.e., how it is published. The appendices include the full text of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1946* and of the Regulations made under it.

Departmental Publications

Ronald Staveley and Mary Piggott (eds.), *Government information and the research worker*, 2nd revised edition, Library Association, 1965, is a symposium in which the contributors "were asked to pay particular attention to those resources and publications of their ministries that were likeliest to be of value to the specialist worker." Most of the government departments (of 1964) were covered. A notable and unavoidable exclusion was the then newly reconstructed Department of Education and Science. Changes in the machinery of government since 1964, and the inauguration since then of new series and serials, has somewhat reduced the value of this work, but it remains useful for retrospective research.

Government publications on education are described in J. E. Vaughan and Michael Argles, *British government publications concerning education: an introductory guide*, 3rd edition, University of Liverpool School of Education, 1969.

Government statistical publications are described under subject headings in Joan M. Harvey, *Sources of statistics*, 2nd revised edition, Bingley, 1971.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AS HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIAL

The value of government publications in historical research has been demonstrated by several historians. Good examples are the chapters on official records in John J. Bagley, *Historical interpretation: sources of English history 1540 to the present day*, Penguin Books, 1971 (Pelican Original) and Charles L. Mowat, *Great Britain since 1914*, Hodder and Stoughton for Sources of History Ltd., 1971. See also the introductions to the *Breviates* and *Select Lists* by Professor and Mrs Ford described in Chapter 6.

The importance of government publications in local studies received too little attention in John L. Hobbs, *Local history and the library*, Deutsch, 1962, but several useful articles on the subject will be found in the files of the *Amateur Historian* and its successor the *Local Historian*, the quarterly journal of the Standing Conference for Local History. See also Maurice Bond, *The records of Parliament: a guide for genealogists and local historians*, which covers both the printed and the original records, and W. R. Powell *Local history from Blue Books*, Historical Association, 1962 (Helps for Students of History No. 64), which explains and illustrates the value of the *House of Commons Sessional Papers* in local historical studies. This pamphlet includes a "Select List of Sessional Papers of the House of Commons" arranged under subject headings such as Church, Education, Health, Poor Relief and Railways.

PARLIAMENTARY ARCHIVES

Although Parliament has not always been at pains to preserve its original records, despite many hazards, including the great fire which destroyed most of the Palace of Westminster in 1834, many still survive. These are now admirably housed and cared for in the House of Lords Record Office, established in 1946, which is freely accessible to all bona fide students. Use of these records is likely to be greatly encouraged, and will undoubtedly be facilitated, by Maurice F. Bond's long-awaited *Guide to the records of Parliament*, H.M.S.O., 1971.

In the words of the author, who is Clerk of the Records at the House of Lords, the *Guide* "describes the complete range of records preserved within the Palace of Westminster: the records of both Houses of Parliament; all documents which have been presented to the two Houses or purchased by them; and the papers which have accumulated in the various Parliamentary and non-Parliamentary offices of the Palace. The earliest in date are those of the fifteenth century, the latest those of the 1969–70 session of Parliament. Detailed attention is given to the manuscript material amongst the records, but descriptions are also included of those classes of Parliamentary record which have been published and are generally available, such as Journals of the Houses and the later Sessional Papers."

The references to the printed records and the inclusion of historical information of general interest means that the value of this *Guide* is not confined to those who are only interested in the manuscript records, but its particular value will nevertheless be to those who use, or intend to use, the facilities of the House of Lords Record Search Room, adjacent to the Victoria Tower at Westminster, where nearly all the records described may be consulted.

As the *Guide to the records of Parliament* will long remain a standard work of reference, it is fitting that H.M.S.O. and its printers, William Clowes & Sons, should have devoted special care to its production.

The latest accessions noted in the *Guide* were received as recently as March 1971. Later accessions will be listed in the *Annual Reports of the House of Lords Record Office*.

As was mentioned earlier, Maurice Bond is also the author of *The records of Parliament: a guide for genealogists and local historians*, Chichester, Phillimore & Co., 1964, an illustrated pamphlet based on a series of articles which Mr Bond contributed to the *Amateur Historian* in 1959 and 1960.

ADDENDUM

A detailed guide to the main government series of economic statistics published since World War II, namely, Bernard Edwards, *Sources of economic and business statistics*, Heinemann, 1972, appeared too late to be mentioned earlier in this Appendix. This is a lucid and authoritative work by a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

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