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Foreword

Certain libraries possess special collections of historical sources the nature and location of which are not generally known to scholars working on particular phases of history. The purpose of this *News Letter* is to acquaint scholars with a few of the special bodies of sources available at the University of Iowa. It is our plan in other bulletins to make known other collections.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

For the study of institutions and the workings of government the field of the British Commonwealth is of signal importance; not only because of the wealth of recent constitutional development which it includes but also because of the kinship, similarity, and geographical proximity to the American Republic. In origin and in purpose the Commonwealth and the Republic are sister national experiments, and share together responsibility for the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific Area. The University of Iowa has realized the importance of this relationship and has builded into its Library great collections of documentary sources on Empire and Dominion history.

For the study of the parliamentary and constitutional history of Great Britain the Library contains a complete set of Hansard's *Parliamentary History of England* and *Parliamentary Debates* from 1066 to the present time. The *Parliamentary Papers* are complete since 1900, and for the 19th century, while the collection is incomplete, it is adequate in several periods for the use of the scholar. There are hundreds of other official papers and publications, including the *Calendar of State Papers, British and Foreign State Papers* from 1812 to 1926, *Statutes at Large*, the *Historical Manuscript Commission Reports* and the British documents on the origins of the War. There are also available such publications as those of the *Royal Historical Society*, and such periodical literature as *The London Gazette*, *The Dublin Review*, *The Annual Register*, the *Quarterly Review* and the *Edinburgh Review*.

In recent years the greatest growth in the facilities for the study of British history has been in the field

of the great Dominions. The Library now contains nearly 2500 volumes of official government publications dealing with the legal and political history and parliamentary development of these British nations.

For the Dominion of Canada the Library has a complete set of the *Parliamentary Debates* and *Parliamentary Sessional Papers* since the formation of the Dominion in 1867. Before that date there are available the rare and important *Journals of the Legislative Assembly* of the United Canadas for the period 1841 to 1867. The Library receives also the *Papers* and *Statutes* of the several Canadian provinces. In 1932 the government of the Dominion designated the University of Iowa as one of the depositories for its official publications. Newfoundland sends all of her *Parliamentary Journals* and *Papers* to the Library.

The Library is equally well supplied with official sources from Australia. The *Parliamentary Debates, Papers* and *Statutes* for the Commonwealth of Australia from its beginning in 1901 to the present are complete. There is also on the campus a set of the very rare *Records of the Federal Council of Australia 1885-1900*. The *Parliamentary Records* of the Australian provinces are also a part of the library collections. For the province of Victoria the *Debates* are complete from 1867 to 1900; for New South Wales from 1896 to 1907; and for South Australia from 1857 to 1882.

New Zealand is also well represented. A complete set of her *Parliamentary Debates* from 1854 to the present are here available. There is also an extensive collection of the *Papers* but the set is not a complete one.

For the Union of South Africa the *Parliamentary Debates* are practically complete from the beginning in 1910 to the present. The *Reports, Papers* and *Statutes* since 1928 have been added. For Cape Colony the *Debates* are complete since 1897, and for Natal from 1879 to 1910. There are available also the very rare *Debates* of the Transvaal Republic for the years 1893 to 1898.

The government of the Irish Free State has sent to the University all of her *Parliamentary Debates* and *Statutes* since the establishment of her dominion status in 1923.

In this collection are to be found all the records of the Imperial Conferences, together with the *Debates* in each Dominion Parliament on the work of these Conferences.

COLONIAL HISTORY

It is neither good policy nor economically possible for the Library to attempt to build up signal collections in every historical field. However, a "field", such as the British Empire, is merely a convenient term used to describe certain related periods and phenomena. Fields necessarily overlap. At one time or another the British Empire, for example, has been intimately bound up with the history of various colonial empires. The Library contains what are in the main supplementary collections, dealing with the colonial activities of the other powers of the modern period. On Spanish colonization the Library has a good collection of published documents. *Documentos inéditos para la historia de España*, 112 volumes, is a major source for many phases of Spanish history. The *Colección de documentos inéditos relativos al descubrimiento, conquista y organización de las antiguas posesiones españolas*, 42 volumes, is an important source for the study of Spanish colonization. For Mexico, in addition to other sources, there is the collection in 36 volumes of *Documentos inéditos del siglo XVI para la historia de México*. For the period of discovery the Library has been fortunate in acquiring Ternaux-Compans, *Voyages, relations, et mémoires originaux pour servir à l'histoire de la découverte de l'Amérique*, 18 vols. Of a similar interest are the *Relaciones Geográficas de Indias* and Juan Lopez de Velasco's *Geografía y descripción universal de las Indias desde 1571 a 1574*. It is impossible to enumerate fully all the materials the Library contains in this field, but the richness of the collection becomes obvious when it is noted that the works of Las Casas, the fervid protagonist of the Indians, who has done more than any other writer to influence the course and nature of Spanish colonial historiography, are also in the Library. The Library possesses *Apológica historia de las Indias*, the *Brevissima relación de la destrucción de las Indias* published in 1552 and the *Historia de las Indias*. Another work of first class importance is the *Ensayo político de la Nueva España* in four volumes of Alexandre de Humboldt which is one of the first and most valuable attempts at a critical evaluation of the Spanish colonial effort.

In the field of German colonial history the Library possesses a complete set of Petermann's *Geographische Mitteilungen* which, apart from giving valuable information on the explorations of the period after the middle of the 19th century, throw much light on the development of the German colonial movement before

the first German annexations in Africa and the Pacific. The student of the history and development of the German colonies will find valuable material in the *Deutsche Kolonialzeitung*, 39 volumes, from 1884 to 1922, which was the organ of the *Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft*. The *Koloniale Zeitschrift*, 15 vols., 1899-1915, is additionally interesting because it contains the *Kriegsausgabe* (War Issue) of the *Koloniale Zeitschrift*. Together with the information of colonial interest in the collection of *Reichstag* debates, the great collection of documents in *Die Grosse Politik der Europäischen Kabinette* and the famous *Weissbuch* of 1884 give a full body of material on German colonies.

There is material available for valuable and original studies of equal scope and interest in the French colonial field in the material contained in the set of *Documents Diplomatiques*, commonly referred to as the *Livres Jaunes*, of which the Library has almost a complete set, containing documents on Egypt, Tunis, Morocco, and other French colonial possessions and spheres of interest in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Implemented as these documents are by the *Journal Officiel*, the student has access to the most important body of official information.

A NEW METHOD

A new and significant method of accumulating historical sources is being worked out in the Department of History. This is a photographic process which by simple and exceedingly inexpensive means copies manuscripts on to cinematographic film. It is the intention of the department to make copies of materials that because of their nature (original documents, rare books, newspapers, etc.) cannot be purchased by the Library. For example, there is already available for the use of students a complete collection of all the papers of Lord Carnarvon, who played an important part in British colonial history, Irish history, and the history of Imperial defense. This collection contains upwards of 24,000 pages of letters received by Lord Carnarvon from most of the influential British colonial statesmen of his time, together with Lord Carnarvon's answers. Another equally impressive set of these photographic, and therefore virtually facsimile copies, contains some hundreds of thousands of pages of despatches and documents relating to British-African matters. This collection contains, for example, the British side of the dispute between Granville and Bismarck over the establishment of German colonies, hitherto a much misunderstood phase of Anglo-German relations. These collections will be added to significantly by the copying of historical materials in this country and abroad, and will both supplement and greatly widen the already impressive body of source material available at Iowa.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The original sources available for the study of the French Revolution have been greatly increased in recent years. The increase has been due in part to the appearance on the market of many rare and valuable collections of European sources, which an impoverished intellectual class was forced to sell after the World War.

The largest single purchase of material consists of about 1200 items. The separate items range in size from a pamphlet to sets of forty or fifty bound volumes. Altogether there are probably between six and eight thousand books and pamphlets in this collection. Another notable acquisition contains over 1000 pamphlets and more than that number of odd copies of revolutionary newspapers, which one unfamiliar with such material might readily mistake for pamphlets. The value of single numbers of newspapers is more apparent when it is realized that not even the *Bibliothèque Nationale* possesses complete files of the nearly 600 newspapers which were started in Paris between 1789 and 1792. Many other important purchases have been made from time to time until the whole taken together forms a large and rich collection.

In order to understand the Revolution itself it is necessary to know something of the conditions in France before 1789. From among many important sources on this subject the following are selected as typical: The *Procès-verbaux* (official records) of several provincial assemblies—Basse-Normandie, 1787; Berri, 1783, 1786; Haute-Guienne, 1786; Isle de France, 1787; Soissons, 1787. Reports of deliberations of local assemblies of Provence in 13 volumes covering the period from 1681 to 1789. Celebrated judicial cases and decisions published from 1739 to 1750 in 20 volumes. Selections from the *Procès-verbal* of the general assembly of the clergy in 1750. A history of the French Academy published in 1688. Some decrees and proceedings of the *Parlements*. *Réflexions sur l'État actuel du crédit public de l'Angleterre et de France*, published in 1781. Raynal's *Considerations sur la paix de 1783*. Necker's famous report on the finances in 1781. Rivarol's *Histoire sommaire et philosophique de la langue Française*, 1784. And a kind of "Reader's Guide," published in 1765 for the journals of that time.

For the Revolution proper, one of the essential sources is the *Procès-verbaux de l'assemblée nationale*. This is the official record of the Constituent Assembly and begins with the session of June 17, 1789. A great deal of material is found in the newspapers for, so far as France is concerned, political journalism may be said to have begun with the Revolution. The Library has a splendid collection of these newspapers—practically complete files of most of the important ones. The

famous *Moniteur* is not only complete for the Revolution, but there are no gaps in its files from the first issue in 1789 down to 1868. There is also one of the few complete sets of Mirabeau's well-known journal, *Le Courrier de Provence*. This copy even contains the first two numbers of his paper entitled *États-Généraux*, which was suppressed by a decree of the Council of State on May 7, 1789.

Space permits only the briefest mention of the other papers that are available. Richer Serisy's *L'Accusateur public*; the royalist, *Les Actes des Apôtres* by Peltier; Clavière and Condorcet's *La Chronique du mois*, 1791-1793; *Courrier Français*, but with some numbers missing; *Journal des débats et des décrets*, 1792-1795; *Journal de Paris*, 1788-1793; *Journal de la ville* and *Le Modérateur*, 1789-1790; *L'Observateur*, 1789-1790; Barère's *Point du Jour*; Le Hodey's *Assemblée nationale*; Prudhomme's *Révolutions de Paris*, Rivarol's *Journal politique nationale*; and others of lesser importance. In addition there are broken files of many more. Perhaps the rarest acquisition in many years is a practically complete set of the *Gazette de Leyde* from 1773 to 1811. Few, if any, copies of this famous paper are to be found in America. Since it covers the period of the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and most of the Napoleonic era, its importance can readily be seen.

A few titles picked at random, might be of interest: Prudhomme and Laurent, *Résumé général et exact des cahiers*, 3 vols. Paris, 1789. The *Précis historique de la Révolution française* (3 vols.) of Rabaut de Saint Étienne. Letter of Pope Pius VI to the archbishop of Aix on the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, published in 1791. "Lettre de Monsieur et de M. le Comte d'Artois au Roi leur frère, avec la déclaration signée à Pölnitz, le 27 Août 1791, par l'Empereur et le Roi de Prusse," 24 pp. Cambacérés, "Rapport sur le code civil fait au nom de Comité de législation" (1794), 57 pp. Pamphlets and works about the Bastille and its prisoners. Documents and reports dealing with the trial and execution of Louis XVI. Most of the works of Necker which were published, as well as a long list of the productions of Mirabeau.

Writings and addresses of other famous men of the Revolution are numerous. Among these may be noted the names of Danton, Barnave, Robespierre, Marat, Sieyès, Lafayette, Saint Just, Barère, the abbé Maury, Desmoulins, Carnot, Alexandre Lameth, Malouet, Treillard, Dupont, Thouret, Clermont-Tonnerre, Brissot, Grégoire, Boissy d'Anglas, Dubois-Crancé, Bergasse, Dumouriez, and Billaud-Varenne.

There are also to be found upon the shelves the great sets of the *Archives Parlementaires*, the *Documents inédits*, and the *Histoire Parlementaire*, which in themselves are veritable mines of first hand information on all phases of the Revolution.

LEGAL RECORDS

"Hoarded wealth yields no interest," said Maitland in urging students of legal history to work in the vast collection of legal records available in England. No attempt will be made to list all the fields covered by the Law Library, but some of those most useful to the historian will be described. By far the largest part of the material in the Law Library is documentary in its nature, consisting, as it does, of the reports of court decisions and the volumes of statute law.

The scholar interested in the social, legal, or economic history of England will find source material in the large collection of English reports which includes, besides the reports of the principal courts of Great Britain, the printed records of many special kinds of courts, such as the manorial courts, court of requests, court of Parliament, quarter sessions, and star chamber. To name a few of these records, there are the *Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield*, 1274-1316, (edited by Baildon and Lister,) the *Court Leet Records of Manchester*, 1552-1846, (edited by Earwaker,) the *Rotuli Parliamentorum* and Rushworth's *Historical Collections*, the *Quarter Sessions Records of Yorkshire*, 1605-1786, and the *Somerset Quarter Sessions Records*, 1607-1639. One may cite also the *Curia Regis Rolls* of Richard and John. No list of this kind should omit a reference to the *Year Books*, of which the Library has several editions, including, of course, the well-edited volumes issued by the Selden Society with their valuable historical introductions and translations.

In addition to the reports of the courts of Great Britain, the Law Library has judicial decisions from most of the British Colonies, not only those of the Dominions like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, but also the colonies like India, the Gold Coast, Uganda, and others where native law is administered. Supplementing the reports are the laws, and particular mention should be made of the long runs of sessional laws of the Dominion and Provinces of Canada, and the Union of South Africa. The Library has the sessional laws of New Zealand from 1908 (lacking two years), those of the Commonwealth of Australia from 1901, of New South Wales from 1894, and practically all those of Newfoundland since 1877.

In the field of American case-law the Library is essentially complete, but it may be well to mention a few of the items likely to be of particular value to the historian. The regular series of state reports begin after the Revolution, but the earlier records of the colonies have in some instances been edited and printed. Outstanding examples of this kind are the *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, Massachusetts, covering the whole period of their existence from 1636-1683. Covering practically

this same epoch in Massachusetts are the *Records of the Court of Assistants*, 1630-1692, a court which for many years combined executive, judicial and legislative powers. For New York, we have similar material in the *Records of New Amsterdam*, 1653-1674, and the *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York*, 1675-1776. For Virginia there are two volumes known as *Colonial Decisions*, covering the years 1728-1741, and also Thomas Jefferson's *Reports of Cases in Virginia*, 1730-1740, 1768-1772. The records of the *Particular Court of Connecticut* have been published by the Connecticut Historical Society for the years 1639-1663. Other colonial court records, as well as the proceedings of the legislative councils, where they have been printed from the original archives by the state or an historical association, are being added to the Library from time to time. The *Archives of Maryland* are the latest addition of this type. The Library has, besides, the *Colonial Records* of Connecticut, Plymouth Colony, the *Provincial and State Papers of New Hampshire*, and *Maine Province and Court Records*.

Important sources for American history are the session laws of the states, and in this field the Law Library is exceptionally well-equipped, particularly for the western states where some of this source material has already become very scarce. There are complete files, or files lacking but two or three sessions, for all the states west of the Mississippi, with the three exceptions of New Mexico, Arkansas, and Missouri. For Missouri, the laws of only eight sessions are lacking and these in the period between 1813 and 1822. For Arkansas, the early state session laws are lacking, but the territorial laws are in the Library. New Mexico is short only about eleven sessions in the period prior to 1871, and is complete after that date.

East of the Mississippi the Library has complete files of session laws for Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Florida from the time of its statehood, Maine, Virginia, and West Virginia. The other states of the East and South are represented with long runs of laws going back in many cases to colonial times.

The Library has specialized in the common law, but not to the entire exclusion of the foreign law. Shortly after the World War the large private library of a German professor of law was purchased and forms the nucleus about which the Library will some day build further. It is strongest in German and Roman law. It contains many pamphlets, among which were found a number of contemporary writings on the Schleswig-Holstein question and the movements of 1848-1849 in Germany. The great set of laws of the German Empire, the *Reichsgesetzblatt*, is here, as are also the reports of the Imperial courts which are contained in the *Entscheidungen des Reichsgerichts in Civil-und Strafsachen*.