

out a substantial increase in its annual expenditures for books. A major capital outlay to remedy accumulated deficiencies of the past is also indicated." Undoubtedly the erection of a new library would be of direct help to the university in its efforts to develop the collections. In the last few years there has been some serious questioning of the expansion of university libraries, but at New York University it has been pointed out that "unquestionably the over-all instructional program would be improved if better library facilities were available." Educators and librarians alike know that quality education requires a quality library service.—*Maurice F. Tauber, Columbia University.*

Modern Archives

Modern Archives; Principles and Techniques. By T. R. Schellenberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1956. 247p. \$5.

The establishment of the National Archives in 1934 marked the beginning of a new era in archives administration in the United States. While a few departments of the national government and some of the state governments had made contributions to the development of a science of archival management, the United States had been until that time decidedly backward in comparison with some European countries. In the past twenty-two years, however, the United States has made up for much of the time lost. Not only do we now have a well-organized archival agency for the national government, with record management programs in the government departments to supplement the work of the National Archives, but we also have improved facilities for preserving and administering archives in a number of the states. In this period we have also seen the establishment of the Society of American Archivists in 1936, an association which has done much to further our knowledge of the principles and practices of archival management through the work of its committees, its annual conferences, and its quarterly publication, *The American Archivist*, which began in 1938.

While these developments have been of great benefit to everyone interested in archives, there has been one gap which needed to be filled. Anyone wishing to learn about the methods of administering collections of government archives has had to depend largely upon articles in periodicals or upon manuals prepared on the basis of experience in European archives. The publication of *Modern Archives; Principles and Techniques* by Dr. T. R. Schellenberg has now admirably filled that gap. The book had its inception in a series of lectures which Dr. Schellenberg gave as a Fulbright lecturer in Australia in 1954, but does not reproduce the lectures as they were given, for the author has rewritten the material and added to it.

Dr. Schellenberg has written a clear and concise text on the administration of archives, basing it chiefly on his long experience at the National Archives, and including descriptions of European methods as well. The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the importance of archival institutions, the nature of archives, library relationships, and archival interests in record management. This section serves as an introduction to the book, giving a brief history of archival establishments in France, England, and the United States, and some of the basic philosophy of record and archives management.

The second part of the book is devoted to record management. Here the author gives much valuable information on the administration of records in government agencies, with excellent chapters on production controls, classification principles, registry systems, American filing systems, and disposition practices. In the third and largest part of the book, Dr. Schellenberg discusses archival management, describing the techniques for handling government records in an archival agency in detail.

Dr. Schellenberg has chosen his topics and organized his material extremely well. The clarity and completeness of coverage of the book make it an excellent text for a course in archival management. We are indeed fortunate to have this basic text to serve as the foundation for a knowledge of archives administration today.—*John R. Russell, University of Rochester Library.*