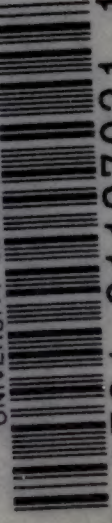


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A REPERTORY OF BRITISH ARCHIVES





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# REPERTORY OF BRITISH ARCHIVES

## PART I. ENGLAND

COMPILED FOR THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

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## PREFACE.

THIS compilation is not intended to serve as a "Guide" to the Records, central or local, public or private. At the same time it will perhaps furnish information not to be found in existing works of reference, especially in respect of official documents not yet transferred to the Public Record Office and of Local Records generally.

The object of the work is to assist historical students in locating such documents as may be useful for their studies. At present these are either inadequately arranged and described, as in the case of most Departmental and Local Archives, or they are arranged according to a conventional plan, as in the case of the collected Public Records.

An attempt has been made in the following pages to classify the several types of Central and Local Records on a systematic plan; to describe their origin and distribution, and to supply references to some printed works dealing with the various archives or their contents.

It should be added that for reasons stated in the Introduction and prefatory notes, the outlying official archives could only be regarded as supplementing the contents of the Public Record Office; but references have been given to the Reports of the Royal Commission on Public Records where further information will be found. For the same reasons the notices of Local Archives in Part II and Part III of this work have been confined to such

indications as may assist the respective authorities to classify and describe the documents, or facilitate the researches of historical students. On the other hand the contents of the Public Record Office have been more fully described in Part I, because these are accessible and also furnish a basis for the classification of other archives, central or local.

The classification adopted is based on the "structural" rather than the "proprietary" aspect of the Records. That is to say, it is concerned with the form and construction of the Records and not merely with their traditional ownership or custody. This arrangement has the advantage of bringing together many related documents which are now scattered under various departmental references. The class of Judicial Proceedings already comprised a more or less homogeneous collection of Pleadings and subsidiary documents, but Charters and Deeds have been collected from a dozen different official series; Royal Letters from as many more, and Accounts from nearly a hundred official sources. This classification will also give students some idea of the nature and use of the several sources, which have also been distinguished, as far as possible, in the Classified Lists as Originals and Inrolments respectively. Brief indications of the contents and dates of the various classes have been given in footnotes, and historical or descriptive notes have been prefixed to the several collections.

The necessity for rigorous compression is responsible for various abbreviations in the references to manuscript or printed authorities, and a Key to these *compendia* is given below; for the same reason full references to the respective editions or to inclusive pages have been dispensed with.

The compilation of the Lists has been carried out, as far as possible, on a uniform plan; but many interruptions

have occurred since the work was put in hand, before the War, and some inconsistencies have resulted; others, such as the diverse methods of computing dates, have been retained to facilitate identification with the official lists.

The compilers are conscious that this, like other pioneer works, has many shortcomings; but at least it will temporarily fill a serious gap in the literature of historical method; and it is hoped that it may be helpful, not only to students of History, but also to custodians of Local Records, to librarians who collect stray documents of local interest, and to private collectors.

The following post-graduate students of the University of London (most of whom are also Fellows of the Royal Historical Society) collaborated in the preparation of these Lists: Miss A. B. Wallis Chapman, D.Sc. Econ. (London); Miss Irene Churchill (Final Honours School of History, Oxford); Miss Ruth Easterling, M.A. (Wales); Mrs. Hutton (Archivist to the British Red Cross Society); Miss M. Lane, M.A. (London); R. S. Lepper, M.A. (Cambridge); H. G. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc. Econ. (London); Miss Joan Wake; Miss M. Wretts-Smith, M.A. (Wales); with some assistance from earlier collaborators: G. C. Brown, M.A. (London); W. Hooper, LL.D. (London); Miss Hilda Jones, M.A. (Wales); Miss G. R. Lewis, and notably from the late Miss P. Steele Hutton, M.A. (St. Andrews).

For the publication of this handbook students of the archives are indebted to the support which the undertaking received, at a critical moment, from the Council of the Royal Historical Society, on the recommendation of Mr. H. R. Tedder, the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, and of Mr. H. E. Malden, the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Tedder has for many years taken a close interest in the science and economy of archives, a subject to which the

attention of the Society was called more than twenty years ago by the late Prof. F. York Powell, and by former Presidents.

Mr. Tedder has seen the proofs of the whole work and has given some valuable advice on several points. He has also contributed an Appendix to the Introduction containing an interesting account of the work of the Royal Commission of 1910 and of subsequent proceedings for the preservation of Public and Local Records in England and Wales.

Mr. M. S. Giuseppi, F.S.A., of H.M. Public Record Office, a Fellow of the Society, kindly read the proofs of Part I and suggested some technical emendations. Others (in Part II) are due to the learning and goodwill of Mr. Malden and of the Lambeth Librarian.

Finally, the compilers have experienced much courtesy and assistance from the officials of the Public Record Office, British Museum, and London School of Economics; and they are naturally indebted to the Reports of the Royal Commission on Public Records, the Local Records Committee, and the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

It should be mentioned that the Introduction and text of this work were printed off more than a year ago, publication having been delayed by unavoidable causes.

H. H.

*October, 1920.*

## INTRODUCTION.

To appreciate the resources of the National Archives it is necessary to understand the distribution, custody, and administration of the central and local collections.

The former comprise many classes of judicial and departmental Records and State Papers, constituting the well-known collection of Public Records. The latter, namely, the so-called Local Records, include various collections of semi-public documents, as well as some Public Records outstanding in the custody of local bodies. Besides these archives there are family muniments or other collections of a private nature, among which will also be found some documents formerly in official custody; just as the public and semi-public Records include many documents at one time belonging to individuals or private corporations.

Each of the above aspects of the history and administration of the national archives will be noticed in the following pages, and this necessarily brief description will be supplemented by references to the literature of the subject.

### 1. The Growth of the Archives.

(a) *Judicial Records*.—The earliest description of the State Archives of this Kingdom that has survived is found in the *Dialogus de Scaccario*, written in the last quarter of the 12th century.<sup>1</sup> This treatise mentions

<sup>1</sup> Ed. Hughes, Crump and Johnson (Clarendon Press).

certain records of the Chancery and Exchequer, the prototypes of more than one series<sup>1</sup> which was continued almost down to the Victorian era. Earlier still, even before the Norman Conquest, we find a few casual notices of State Archives in royal charters or monastic chronicles; but these sources of information are not always above suspicion.<sup>2</sup>

The repositories in which these primitive records were preserved have also been mentioned in contemporary documents or narratives, and from these notices we may infer that the Archives were associated with the Treasury or Wardrobe of the royal palace, or with the strong-room of an adjacent church.<sup>3</sup> Their characteristic receptacle seems to have been an iron-bound "ark" or chest where they were still kept in much later times, parcelled in numerous cases, leather pouches, and wooden "skippets".<sup>4</sup> These primitive conditions seem to have been of universal occurrence during the Middle Ages; and with the records was preserved other "treasure" in the shape of relics, jewels, plate, regalia, and robes of State.<sup>5</sup>

In course of time, the royal Treasury, Wardrobe, and Jewel House became separate departments; but until quite recent days stray records were to be found near the site of the ancient Treasury in Westminster Abbey.<sup>6</sup> Before the end of the 16th century there were separate treasuries at Westminster for the records of the courts of Common Law.<sup>7</sup> The Chancery records were

<sup>1</sup> *Dialogus*, I, vi. and xiv.

<sup>2</sup> H. Hall, *Studies in Official Documents*, pp. 14-15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 16-22; *Court Life*, pp. 114 sq., and *Antiquities of the Exchequer*, Ch. I-III.

<sup>4</sup> Catalogue of the Museum of the Public Record Office, p. 93 sq.

<sup>5</sup> Palgrave, *Kalendars* (*passim*).

<sup>6</sup> *Third Report of the Public Records Commission* (1919), Part II, pp. 116 sq.

<sup>7</sup> Powell, *Repertorie*, p. 15.



stored in the Tower of London, but those of recent date were allowed to accumulate in the Rolls Chapel or in the houses of the Chancery clerks. Thence they found their way from time to time to the great repository in the Tower,<sup>1</sup> just as the judicial records of the Bench and Assizes were gradually transferred to the treasuries at Westminster from which they overflowed into a large number of departmental repositories.<sup>2</sup>

At the date of the appointment of the Select Committee of 1799, the above repositories were still in use, though greatly congested and lacking all the essential requirements of national archives.<sup>3</sup> Parliament had been fitfully concerned with the improvement of these conditions during the whole of the 18th century, but nothing useful was done until the nationalization and reconstruction of the French archives attracted the attention of English reformers.<sup>4</sup> The report of the Select Committee in 1800 was followed by the appointment of Record Commissioners in that year; and a further Parliamentary inquiry in 1836 into the proceedings of the Commission led to the passing of the Public Record Office Act of 1838.<sup>5</sup> The object of this Act was "to establish one Record Office and a better custody," but before the first section of the present repository in Fetter Lane was completed in 1856, it was necessary to retain the three "general repositories" then existing.<sup>6</sup> These were supplemented by a "branch office" at Carlton Ride and by

<sup>1</sup> W. J. Hardy, Mids., etc., *Notes and Queries*, Vol. II (1896), p. 49; D.K., 57th Rep., p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Hall, *Studies*, pp. 111-114. The Stone Tower was used later.

<sup>3</sup> *Quarterly Review*, Apr., 1917, p. 501; *Edinburgh Review*, Oct., 1914, p. 375.

<sup>4</sup> *Contemporary Review*, June, 1918; *History*, July, 1918, p. 97.

<sup>5</sup> Gross, *Sources and Literature*, pp. 77 sq.; Hall, *op. cit.*, pp. 25 sq.

<sup>6</sup> *i.e.* the Chapter House (Westminster), the Wakefield Tower (Tower of London), and the Rolls Chapel.

other minor repositories,<sup>1</sup> the Rolls House itself being utilized for the administration of the archives.<sup>2</sup>

The transfer of the main collections of Judicial Records to the new repository on the Rolls estate was carried out between 1856 and 1860. Some special or outlying records were retained in official custody,<sup>3</sup> others have been partially transferred to the Public Record Office, whilst a few collections have been otherwise disposed of. Thus the records of the Ecclesiastical Courts at Doctor's Commons have been transferred to Lambeth Palace or to Somerset House.<sup>4</sup> As far as the metropolitan records are concerned the belated process of centralization, begun in 1838, may be eventually carried out, but there is a growing feeling against the transfer of regional records which might be profitably studied by local schools of history.<sup>5</sup>

(b) *State Papers*.—Until the middle of the 16th century the State Papers, as distinguished from the Judicial Records, were chiefly preserved in the Treasury at Westminster, or in the custody of the King's Secretary and other Chancery clerks. These documents comprised original treaties or treaty papers, law papers, political reports with royal, departmental, and miscellaneous letters and instruments under the Signet or Sign Manual. Copies or dockets of these documents were also preserved in various inrolments, registers, or precedent books among the Chancery and Exchequer Records.<sup>6</sup> Hitherto no clear distinction had been made between these administrative or political documents and the

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* in the Inns of Court or in Chancery Lane. For a list of these, see Hall, *op. cit.*, pp. 111 *sq.*

<sup>2</sup> D.K., 1st Rep., p. 68. It was used for this purpose till its demolition, and letters are still occasionally directed to that address.

<sup>3</sup> Below, pp. 93 *sq.*; 1914 Rep., Appx. (III), and Hall, *op. cit.*, p. 117.

<sup>4</sup> 1914 Rep., Appx., pp. 36 *sq.*, 92 *sq.*, 167 *sq.*, 199 *sq.*

<sup>5</sup> 1919 Rep., p. 35.

<sup>6</sup> Some of these, notably registers of instruments under the Smaller Seals, have not been regularly preserved.

judicial series, for mediæval administrative procedure was largely judicial in form. In common, therefore, with the Judicial Records, the original State Papers, no longer in use, were brought into the archives from time to time; but with the statutory reconstruction of the Secretariat in 1535, a new series of administrative archives had become expedient, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth this took the form of a collection of "Papers of State" in a State Paper Office at the Palace of Whitehall.<sup>1</sup> The mediæval State papers continued to be preserved in the old repositories at Westminster and the Tower of London among the records of the Chancery, which, like the Exchequer, continued to perform certain political functions.<sup>2</sup>

The early history of the State Paper Office is somewhat obscure, but it is chiefly associated with the Whitehall Gateway, where the papers continued to be unworthily housed for nearly two centuries in the charge of successive keepers. In 1706 a new repository was provided by the Office of Works in the Cockpit, though some papers remained in the Whitehall Gateway until its removal.<sup>3</sup>

One reason for the institution of a State Paper Office may be found in the difficulty of collecting the papers that were no longer in use, for in spite of the frantic efforts of their keepers an increasing proportion was carried off by successive Secretaries of State. Another pressing need was the arrangement and description of the papers, for this was only provisionally accomplished by the keepers. Further efforts, both for the requisitioning of papers and for their comprehensive arrangement, were made by new authorities, the Collectors,

<sup>1</sup> It has been suggested that the State Papers between 1536 and 1578 were preserved in a "Library" or "Study" in the Gate House at Westminster; but it is well known that many papers are missing for this period.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the preparation of Treaties and Commissions of Inquiry.

<sup>3</sup> Hall, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

Transmitters, and Methodizers appointed between 1725 and 1800.<sup>1</sup> This device, however, led to the distribution of the State Papers between separate departments and induced a general paralysis of official responsibility. In the last years of the 18th century the energy and skill of John Bruce prepared the way for the appointment of the Record Commission of 1799, whose first Report "made an end of the whole fraternity of Transmitters and Methodizers". During these experiments the State Papers had been distributed in several temporary repositories: it was not till 1833 that the whole collection was brought together in the State Paper Office in St. James's Park. In 1854 this department was formally taken over as a branch repository of the Public Record Office, to which the State Papers were finally transferred in 1862.<sup>2</sup>

Apart from the State Papers appropriated by ministers or requisitioned and not returned by them, a few early documents were retained by the Departments which had been evolved from the old Secretariat between 1781 and 1855; but it may be presumed that these have now been transmitted to the Public Record Office. On the other hand, certain documents have apparently been accidentally mixed with, or deliberately annexed to the original contents of the Paper Office during its sojourn in the Cockpit, including records of the Treasury and the Council of Trade and Plantations. At the same time, the State Papers comprise so many unrelated and unexpected documents that we are reminded of the miscellaneous contents of the ancient Treasury of the Receipt; but whether in both cases these collections were gradually formed, or were casually added to from time to time, it is not easy to determine.<sup>3</sup> The Home, Foreign, and Colonial

<sup>1</sup> Hall, *op. cit.*, pp. 41-43.

<sup>2</sup> 1912 Rep., Appx., p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> See Scargill-Bird, *Guide*, p. 358 *sq.*

Offices, the War Office and India Office made no direct transfers to the State Paper Office. Of late years several inter-departmental transfers have been made which have increased the difficulty of identifying the several collections.

(c) *Departmental Records*.—During the Middle Ages, and for some time later, the business of the State was transacted by individual clerks or household officers.<sup>1</sup> In course of time these royal agents were succeeded by Departments of State<sup>2</sup> or special authorities,<sup>3</sup> but these were few in number, and their development slow, owing to the general activities of the Secretaries of State. During the 18th century the Civil List underwent a considerable expansion, with reductions in 1782 and 1832.<sup>4</sup> A further expansion took place between 1860 and 1914, and since the War a distinct type of department has been established which, with its records, is concerned only with the War or with problems arising out of the War.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately the Departmental Records were not, like the State Papers, placed under the general supervision of an official keeper. In the case of some important departments, which have had a continuous existence, the records were kept more or less intact down to the beginning of the 19th century. Some have found their way into the State Paper Office; others, having ceased to exist as departmental series, were absorbed in the archives of related departments; but many neglected or derelict records perished or have been added to private and semi-public collections.<sup>6</sup>

No mention is made of any State Papers or Departmental Records in the Public Record Office Act of 1838, but these documents, are covered by the defining Section

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> *Formula Book*, Part I, p. 119 sq.

<sup>3</sup> 1919 Rep., Part II, Appx. V.

<sup>4</sup> Hall, *Studies*, p. 44.

<sup>5</sup> Hall, *Studies*, pp. 47-49.

<sup>6</sup> Below, pp. 151, 156.

(XX), and powers were given for their future custody by recourse to an Order in Council.<sup>1</sup> In spite of this omission, the records of various departments have been transferred to the charge and superintendence of the Master of the Rolls since 1840;<sup>2</sup> but the recent Royal Commission on Public Records found that a large proportion of the documents had been recklessly destroyed and that the departmental archives were in great need of a better system of supervision.

The Departmental Records have been officially distinguished from the State Papers, partly by a conventional limit of date, and partly by the evidence of independent custody. Thus the contents of the old State Paper Office are classified as State Papers, Domestic, Foreign, and Colonial, down to the year 1780; but after that date they are described as Home Office, Foreign Office, and Colonial Office Records respectively. The records of the War Office, Admiralty, and Public Offices, other than the triple Secretariat of the 18th century, include some departments of great antiquity, though most have been established within the last fifty years. Some are associated with a single Officer of State; others with a Board of Commissioners. Their records, too, are of divers kinds, and of varying bulk and value.<sup>3</sup> It may be added that some public departments should properly be regarded as statutory registries, and, therefore, more closely related to Judicial Records than to State Papers.<sup>4</sup>

The value of the Departmental Records for the study of the national institutions and biography is very great, and their distribution and extent are as yet imperfectly

<sup>1</sup> Only a few semi-judicial offices are mentioned in the 1800 and 1837 Report on the Public Records.

<sup>2</sup> Below, pp. 161 *sq.*

<sup>3</sup> *cf.* Hall, *op. cit.*, pp. 89 *sq.*; Scargill-Bird, *Guide*, pp. 366 *sq.*

<sup>4</sup> 1914 Rep., Part II, pp. 103-139; and below, pp. 93-97.

known, though much information has been supplied by the Reports of the Public Records Commission.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, however, the relationship and administrative significance of the records have been obscured through the ill-treatment that they have received, and the collections will need much patient reconstruction.

(d) *Local Records*.—As no precise definition of English Local Records has been generally accepted, a description of their nature, extent, distribution, and custody can only be regarded as a provisional one. For the purpose of the present work, therefore, all historical manuscripts, other than those preserved in the central State Archives described in the preceding pages, have been regarded as Local Records. On the whole, this definition agrees substantially with that most frequently adopted. The only qualification that may be needed is in respect of the branch repositories of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain Government Departments throughout the country; but though these outlying records remain under a central jurisdiction and are liable to be transferred to central custody, they might with advantage be deposited in local archives whenever these are constituted for the appropriate regions. The position of the records of Royal Commissions and Statutory Committees is also somewhat doubtful, though here the Crown has not attempted to assert its title to the records. For the rest, the records of the county, of the town, of the parish and diocese, of public institutions, and private individuals are generally recognized as Local Records of either a public or a private nature. At the same time a slight difficulty arises in connection with the central and local distribution of certain classes of these documents. Thus, while we should find in most county towns a museum

<sup>1</sup> 1910-1918, *cf.* Hall, *op. cit.*, pp. 123 *sq.*

containing Local Records, the British Museum in London is for all practical purposes a repository of national manuscripts, scarcely less precious to historians than the Public Records themselves. Again, there are many trading corporations which have their headquarters in London, where the records are centralized. Finally, there are some metropolitan authorities which are on the same footing as Government Departments. In such cases are we to classify documents of national importance as "Minor London Archives"? The proper answer would seem to be that these are central and not local institutions by reason of their official character and royal or statutory foundation; but although they may have counterparts in many provincial towns, the latter cannot be regarded individually as national institutions.

It must not be supposed, however, that when we have solved these academic problems, our difficulties in respect of the classification and identification of Local Records will be at an end. The truth is that, with one exception, the literature of the subject shows that the origin, evolution, and life history of English local institutions have not been studied with sufficient industry, and, therefore, with proper understanding.<sup>1</sup> Whether all these institutions have produced records, and whether all these records are of an historical nature or of relative importance, are questions that cannot be answered without a careful investigation and full understanding of the matter, and these requirements involve a reconstruction of the whole machinery of local government during the last eight centuries at least.

In Part II of this volume an attempt has been made to classify and describe the main classes of Local Records, as well as to trace their growth and to explain their use

<sup>1</sup> The exception is in the case of the works of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb dealing with this subject which, however, are not yet completed.



as sources of historical information ; it is, therefore, unnecessary to give any further description of their origin and vicissitudes, especially as the Royal Commission on Public Records has recently dealt with this subject in its Third Report.

## 2. The Administration of the Archives.

(a) *State Archives*.—Although the Public Records of this country have not received the close attention that has been bestowed on the State Archives abroad for more than a hundred years past, the method of their custody was practically the same throughout Western Europe from the 9th century to the 19th.<sup>1</sup> This uniformity of official practice may probably be attributed to the cosmopolitan constitution of the Mediæval Church and State, as well as to the close fellowship of mediæval clerks. Everywhere the records were regarded as possessing the value of treasure and the sanctity of relics, whilst their judicial origin and environment invested them with the authority of precedents.

No serious attempt has yet been made to locate the more obscure repositories of English Records that have existed from time to time since the 12th century, to set forth their establishments or to describe their methods, though some materials for this purpose have been collected.<sup>2</sup> The identification of these repositories, with their respective courts or departments, is also a matter of difficulty, though one of obvious importance. The subject, however, is of archæological rather than of institutional interest. For our present purpose it is enough to note that the Judicial Records were kept in numerous repositories until they were transferred to the main archives.

<sup>1</sup> *Y Cymmrodor*, Vol. XXVII, pp. 206 sq.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, *History of Public Departments*; Hall, *Studies* (Part I).

Probably none of these ancient receptacles now contains any records, though some documents may have been destroyed or misappropriated at an early period of their custody. Indeed, the survival of any ancient records at all is probably due to their value as judicial or administrative acts. It has been mentioned above that records in constant use for departmental reference might remain in the personal custody of the clerks for an indefinite period, whilst other records were duly transmitted to the Royal Treasury or other central archives.<sup>1</sup> Up to a certain point the practice of storing records in iron-bound chests ensured their safety; but, on the other hand, it has been the fate of many documents placed in such receptacles to moulder away from want of ventilation. Thus the bound books which formerly stood on the shelves of an aumbry, or the rolls contained in pouches hung in a closet, are usually found in a better state of preservation than files or bundles stacked on the floor.

We have seen that the records compiled under the direction of the King's clerks, prothonotaries, and other royal officers, found their way into the treasuries of the Courts of Justice or remained in the vaults and attics of the Departments of State. Others accumulated in the offices of a multitude of legal or official functionaries, many of whom claimed a freehold in their offices by virtue of a royal grant and regarded the records as pertaining thereto. It follows, then, that in order to account for the Public Records of this country, as well as to realize their true nature and uses, it is necessary to identify their respective custodians. In fact, the modern classification of the archives is largely based on this

<sup>1</sup> Above, p. xi.

proprietary aspect of their custody, and the materials for this classification are still very imperfect.

From another point of view the early establishments may throw much light upon the condition of the existing collections. In spite of the inferior equipment of English Archives, they have experienced fewer losses than those of continental States owing, doubtless, to their insular position; indeed, the fate of the Scottish and Welsh Records seems to confirm this supposition.<sup>1</sup>

But although this may be true for an earlier period, the situation was entirely reversed during the century of peace that followed the Napoleonic Wars. Whilst other nations have preserved their surviving archives with devoted care, our own collections have been enormously reduced by indiscriminate or organized destruction.

The extent and significance of these losses has not hitherto been realized, and they have been written off without any attempt to ascertain the relationship of many vanished series with surviving specimens, whose origin and use are now obscure. The time must come when an attempt will be made to reconstruct the original contents of the archives, for until this principle is recognized there can be no finality of research or any security for the existing records. Apart, therefore, from the occasional losses sustained from foreign or civil warfare, the survival of public records has chiefly depended on the goodwill or efficiency of their custodians, for even the accidents of fire or flood are largely preventible by careful custody.

Down to the accession of Queen Victoria, the care of the records was shared by clerks who were not amenable to any control or supervision; who, with some notable exceptions, were ignorant of the historical value of the

<sup>1</sup> cf. *Library Association Record*, Sept.-Oct., 1918, p. 197 sq.

records, and indifferent to their existence, except as a means of livelihood. Thanks to the fees paid by searchers for legal purposes, the custodians were able to pay rent and taxes, and to keep a dry roof over the records; but the system was a mischievous one, because official attention was confined to a few classes of records of unequal historical value, the rest being left to their fate in damp cellars or dusty attics. Such was the condition of the Judicial Records before the Public Record Office Act of 1838. The position of the State Papers was more favourable because they were in the custody of a keeper who received a living wage and who had an official interest in the Papers of State, which were referred to for historical information. On the other hand, the Departmental Records were not, from the first, dignified with even the pretence of expert custody, and the departmental librarian or paper keeper of to-day is the lineal descendant of some office-keeper or clerk of the stores by whom the records were kept in safety, but without any arrangement or description.

With the passing of the Public Record Office Act of 1838, this primitive administration of our Public Records is supposed to have come to an end. It is one thing, however, to enunciate a principle of public policy and quite another thing to see it carried out. The measures adopted by the record reformers of 1838 for that purpose were quite inadequate. As a result, the archaic administration of the records was continued, and to the evils of a sordid and exclusive custody, were added the unauthorized destruction or appropriation of documents obviously of a public nature. One explanation of this break-down is suggested by the investigations of the Record Commissioners of 1910.<sup>1</sup> The public conscience

<sup>1</sup> 1912 Rep., Appx. I (*passim*); 1914 Rep. (*passim*).

had been awakened ; but no literary clamour could shake the purpose of the Treasury to whose discretion the due execution of the Public Record Office Act of 1838 had been committed. This unenlightened control paralysed the activities of the administration of the National Archives, which quickly sank into the position of a third-rate Government Department.<sup>1</sup> The Reports of Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Committees since the beginning of the 18th century had revealed the neglected state of the records, and had sufficiently indicated the necessity for their vigilant custody, proper arrangement, and systematic description. But these requirements could not be fulfilled by the casual and perfunctory activities set forth in the early Reports of the Deputy Keeper, nor could they be compensated by the publication of elaborate texts and calendars, instead of the lists and indexes which had become a rare luxury to Victorian students.

Thus no steps were taken to enforce the Public Record Office Act by a scholarly and independent administration, such as that which has made the French Archives a national possession in deed as well as in name. Privileged interests were allowed to thwart the real intention of the Act. The archives of the Royal Household, of the Royal Duchies and Palatinates, of Parliament, and of the Government Departments were tacitly excluded from its scope.<sup>2</sup> The position of these Departmental Records is a peculiar one. In theory, like the Judicial Records and State Papers, they are the property of the Crown ; but in practice the Sovereign has taken no personal interest

<sup>1</sup> It is almost unnecessary to say that the Treasury is no longer "unenlightened" on any subject of scholarly interest, while it no longer claims any control over the disposal of the Public Records (1914 Rep. II, No. 28 and III (Evidence), Q. 6920 *sq.*).

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* above, pp. xv-xvi ; 1914 Rep., Appx., pp. 141-142, and 1919 Rep., Appx., pp. 108, 109.

in their custody for a long time past, and even the records of the Royal Household were lately found by the Record Commissioners in a neglected state.<sup>1</sup>

The Public Record Office Act of 1838 does not specify any repositories other than those of the Judicial Records, and the Departmental Archives have not been included in any general inquiry prior to the Reports of the Public Records Commission of 1910.<sup>2</sup> It is true that an informal understanding was arrived at between the Master of the Rolls and the Departments, the true significance of which will be presently explained; but, though the most important series of Departmental Records have been gradually transferred to the Public Record Office since 1840, there has been no systematic clearance of these repositories, because no definite supervision was provided by the principal Act. Many records have perished on the spot, and others have remained in danger, because they were over-looked or withheld on the occasion of former transfers. Some Departments, indeed, have transmitted no records at all, to the loss of students, though in certain cases, such as the statutory Registries, an independent method of centralization was already provided.

These difficulties were largely due to an early misunderstanding of the Act of 1838 by the authorities concerned.<sup>3</sup> When the Act was passed it applied only to Judicial Records contained in certain specified repositories, partly because these were in need of immediate attention, and also because the Public Record Office had yet to be built. It was clearly intended, however, that the Act should apply eventually to "all documents whatso-

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ever of a public nature, the property of His Majesty," and provision was made<sup>1</sup> for the extension of the Act to such documents by Order in Council; whereupon they would forthwith come under the "charge and superintendence" of the Master of the Rolls, who would then be responsible for their proper custody, repair, arrangement, and description.<sup>2</sup>

The Order in Council contemplated by the Act was duly issued in March, 1852; but the Record Officers, anxious to secure some interesting historical documents, had already devised a compromise, whereby the Government Departments have been enabled to deposit any records that they wanted to get rid of, on their own terms, and to retain other records for departmental reference to the disadvantage of students; for it was an essential condition of this understanding that the Departmental Records might be withdrawn at pleasure, and could be inspected only under arbitrary departmental restrictions.<sup>3</sup>

The effect of this compromise was to prevent any complete or permanent arrangements for the proper custody and description of the Departmental Records. The authorities, however, had soon to face the fact that provision must be made for these documents as well as for the old State Papers and Judicial Records. After a time the Departmental Records, at first eagerly desired, became an unwelcome burden on the resources of the Treasury, and before long the official doctrine was

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<sup>2</sup> Section 4.

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evolved that records of insufficient value to justify permanent preservation might be otherwise disposed of.<sup>1</sup>

Hitherto the survival of the records had been decided by an ordeal of fire or water; but when the question of space became an urgent one a drastic revision of the lists was made by an Inter-departmental Committee. This expedient was actually in operation for nearly twenty years; but as no legislative authority for this procedure existed, a permissive Act was passed in 1877 which has been administered since 1882 by a departmental Committee, whose proceedings are governed by Statutory Rules and are recorded in Parliamentary Schedules.<sup>2</sup> By a supplementary Act of 1898, the date from which records might thus be dealt with was set back from 1715 to 1660; but neither of these Acts was worthy of the occasion, and in view of the rather complicated provisions of the Public Record Office Act of 1838, it is to be regretted that a comprehensive amending Act was not passed in 1852 to ensure the adequate custody and systematic description of all classes of the Public Records; for the disposal of the Departmental Records alone has become a problem of the greatest magnitude.<sup>3</sup>

In 1910 the Public Records Commission came to the conclusion that it was too late to patch up the administration of the Public Records on the old lines, and suggested a new administrative system. But the Commissioners could not fail to perceive that matters might have been very different if the Government had risen to the occasion in 1838; or even if the first administrators under the Act had possessed the ability and scholarly

<sup>1</sup> See 1912 Rep., Appx. (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> *Public Record Office, Rules and Schedules* (1913); cf. D.K. Reports (1883, etc.), and 1912 and 1914 Reports (*passim*).

<sup>3</sup> See 1919 Rep., Appx. V.



vision shown since 1886 by the present Deputy Keeper.<sup>1</sup> However this may be, it seems to be agreed on all sides, that, if not a new "government," fresh legislation is certainly necessary for the welfare of the central and local archives alike.<sup>2</sup> It remains for historical students to press for its accomplishment, and also for carrying out such of the recommendations of the Commission as are still desirable or practicable.<sup>3</sup>

(b) *Local Archives*.—Although, as we have seen, the activities or interests of the towns, parishes, ecclesiastical bodies and individual citizens of this country may be traced back for more than 800 years in a large mass of Local Records, those collections are now in most cases exceedingly imperfect, while the official records in the custody of the County Councils and statutory authorities or trusts are in still worse plight.<sup>4</sup> This may be partly due to the fact that the Local Records do not possess the same authority or prestige as the Public Records which are nominally, at least, the property of the Crown.<sup>5</sup> Thus

<sup>1</sup> See 1912 Rep., p. 2, where the Commissioners have paid a well-deserved tribute to the work of Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte.

<sup>2</sup> It is noteworthy that the Committee on Local Records (1899-1901), presided over by Bishop Creighton and Lord Bryce successively, and advised by Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, advocated definite legislation for Local Records and an expansion of the powers of the Record Office in respect of supervision.

<sup>3</sup> *cf. Library Association Record*, XIV, pp. 519-528; XVII, pp. 185-199. These summaries of the recommendations of the Commission (1912 and 1914 Reports) have been generously contributed by Mr. Tedder, whose interest in every branch of archive economy is inexhaustible.

<sup>4</sup> See 1919 Rep. and below, Parts II and III (*passim*).

<sup>5</sup> Apart from the Acts relating to Registration, and the special provisions made in the Municipal Corporations Acts of 1882-1883 and Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894, for the custody of town and parish records, there has been no definite legislation for the security of Local Records generally. Moreover, with the exception of outlying Judicial and Departmental Records, they were excluded from the scope of the Public Record Office Act of 1838, though they have benefited, unofficially, by the procedure instituted under the Acts of 1877 and 1898. The existing measures for their preservation and the further measures that may be desirable are referred to in the Reports of the 1902 Committee and in the Reports of the recent Royal Commission.

many collections of ancient muniments have been pillaged with impunity by local antiquaries, and a still larger proportion of later papers has been wilfully destroyed or allowed to perish from neglect. One explanation of these losses is, that however inadequate the accommodation provided for the Public Records may have been, that of the Local Records has been infinitely worse. At the same time there are reasons for believing that the losses incurred in respect of the latter are of longer standing. We have seen that the repositories of the State Archives underwent little change down to the 19th century, and that the greatest destruction of the records has taken place since that date. On the other hand, the custody of county, town, and parish records has been precarious from the first, and has depended largely on the personality of their custodians. The same remark applies to the records of statutory authorities in the personal custody of the clerk to a local board; while the records of statutory Registries have fared little better unless they have been established under a modern statute. The ecclesiastical records have had the great advantage of being preserved in repositories which were usually situated in the church itself; but, on the other hand, they have suffered from the great spoliation of the Reformation period, and the higher clergy, as a body, have taken little interest in their preservation down to recent times.<sup>1</sup> The Registers have been relatively better preserved than any other parochial records, because their safety has been an object of solicitude to the clergy and laity at large. In contrast to this survival, church-wardens' accounts, which contain still more interesting materials for parochial history, have mostly perished with rate-

<sup>1</sup> This may be inferred from the fact that more than half the Bishops and Archdeacons failed to answer the inquiries addressed to them by the Local Records Committee of 1899.

books and other early records, in the custody of parish officers.

In the case of the two remaining classes of Local Records, namely muniments and manuscript collections of corporate bodies or public institutions and of private individuals, there has been a constant wastage through fire or damp and from the dispersion of many documents by sale or otherwise. At the same time many local collections have been largely augmented by gifts or purchases, and this re-distribution has hitherto tended to preserve our Local Records, as well as to make them more accessible to students. There is, however, a growing danger of the expatriation of national manuscripts through their sale to foreign collectors or institutions, especially in the case of State Papers or other Public Records which have been improperly removed from official custody by Ministers of State.

Unfortunately, the gravity of this danger is obscured by the growing tendency to regard alien antiquities and works of art as national treasures of supreme importance. At the same time the existing traffic in ancient monuments or old masters cannot justify the exploitation of National Archives which, unlike pictures or literary MSS., are unique and essential records of the history of the race itself. For this reason it is very desirable that the disposal of documents which are, or ought to be, for all time the property of the Crown should be made the subject of legislative enactments by international agreement.<sup>1</sup>

(c) *Bibliography of the Archives*.—This is not the place in which even the outlines of an ideal policy for the custody and administration of the English Archives can be usefully set forth. Before such a policy is shaped, it would be necessary to make a careful survey of the

<sup>1</sup> As to this see 1919 Rep., Appx., p. 37; *Y Cymmrodor*, Vol. XXVII, pp. 220, 228 sq., and *Transactions*, R. Hist. Soc., Ser. IV, Vol. II, pp. 42-49.

printed literature of the subject and to utilize the scientific methods and ripe experience of foreign archivists.

For the present purpose, however, reference may be made, in the first place, to the Reports of the Royal Commission on Public Records, prepared between 1910 and 1919, with Conclusions and Recommendations covering almost every aspect of the subject. No other general source of information can be compared with this; but it is desirable to peruse the results of previous official inquiries, particularly the official Reports on the administration of the Public and Local Records issued from the reign of Queen Anne onwards.<sup>1</sup> The critical or controversial literature of the archives is also concerned with these Reports and is remarkably instructive, though it is chiefly in the form of periodical publications.<sup>2</sup> There are also many didactic works in the form of "Handbooks" or "Guides" to the Public Records,<sup>3</sup> which are not all of first-rate importance, besides official Lists, Indexes, Catalogues, Calendars, and textual publications. As to these last, it should be noted that official activities, which have necessarily been dependent on Treasury grants, are supplemented by many private enterprises, especially under the auspices of the learned societies.<sup>4</sup> It will

<sup>1</sup> e.g. 1719, 1732, 1772, 1800, 1836, 1837, 1902, and 1908. The growth of the archives as well as their administration is described in the Annual Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records; also by Prof. Firth in 1912 Rep., Appx. II. For Local Records, see below, pp. 112 sq.

<sup>2</sup> e.g. *Quarterly Review*, Jan., 1910; Apr., 1917; *Edinburgh Review*, Oct., 1914; *Contemporary Review*, May, 1916; June, 1918; Oct. 1919; *Athenæum*, 7th Jan., 23rd Dec., 1905; 28th Dec., 1907; 3rd Oct., 1912; 19th Sept., 1914; *History*, July, 1918: cf. Gross, *Sources*, pp. 83-85.

<sup>3</sup> F. S. Thomas, *Handbook* (1853), and "History of Public Departments" (1846); S. R. Scargill-Bird, *Guide* (3rd ed., 1908); C. M. Andrews, *Guide* (1908-1914); Andrews and Davenport, *Guide to Minor London Archives* (1908); H. Hall, *Studies* (1908); and *Formula Book* (1908-1909); *Encyclopædia Brit.*, s.v. "Records".

<sup>4</sup> For a list of such Societies, see H. Hall, *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History*, p. 273 sq.

therefore be found that these descriptions of the archives, and the texts of particular series or of individual records, are characterized by distinctive editorial methods,<sup>1</sup> and are associated with diverse undertakings;<sup>2</sup> but much valuable matter has been published in the proceedings of "Academies" or in "Periodical Publications," as well as in the Reports of the Deputy Keeper and of the Record Commissioners.

The references that have been made to Public and Local Records in various modern works are not very helpful to the student of archives, partly because of the difficulty of identification. Nevertheless, they include some interesting observations, with occasional descriptions of documents that are no longer available.

The chief features of this record literature have been commented on in several of the reviews above referred to, and they have been critically examined in the recent Reports of the Public Records Commission.<sup>3</sup> The general impression conveyed by these accounts and confirmed by a perusal of official catalogues and inventories, is that, while there was an enormous expenditure on the preparation or publication of printed texts, calendars, and lists of the Records during the greater part of the nineteenth century, we have very little to show for it at the present date.

The hieroglyphic texts and pedantic indexes of the old Record Commission may be dismissed from serious consideration; indeed its expenditure of some hundreds

<sup>1</sup> Some are printed in "record type"; others are partly or wholly extended; but many versions or abstracts appear in English, as well as extracts from the original documents.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Collections, published by the Record Commission (1800-1837), the Public Record Office, central learned societies (Pipe Roll Society, Selden Society, etc.), local societies (Record Series). *cf.* C. Gross, *Sources and Literature*, ch. ix. and Appendices.

<sup>3</sup> *See* especially Prof. Firth's Memoranda in the Appendices (1912 Rep., Appx. VI, and 1914 Rep., Appx. VII) as to official publications.

of thousands of pounds had been regarded as practically a dead loss by the reformers of 1836. Nearly as much more was expended on the publications of the "Rolls Series," which only included half-a-dozen records among a hundred manuscript sources.<sup>1</sup> The publications of the Public Record Office itself, from 1857 onwards, include a few texts and separate lists, with a long series of Calendars of Mediæval and Modern State Papers. The latter are admirable helps to historical study, but they do not cover the whole period of English History since Magna Carta, and they deal with only a few classes of the Public Records. As for the Lists, published since 1840 in the Deputy Keeper's Reports and continued since 1891 as a separate series, they can only be regarded as temporary and provisional inventories of the archives.

The above-mentioned texts and calendars were undertaken to meet the immediate need of students for historical sources in an intelligible form, and the occasional and fragmentary lists, for which alone time and money were available, served the purposes of officials and record agents. In these days, however, the conditions of historical research have greatly changed and the provision of adequate lists has become the first, if not the chief, need of students. It may be hoped that when this fact is recognized, and when application is duly made, lists will be provided on the scholarly lines that have been followed in the making of the Public Record Office Calendars<sup>2</sup> since 1890.

Next to adequate inventories of the records, a bibliography of record literature is perhaps most urgently required. For the mediæval period, and for municipal

<sup>1</sup> cf. 1912 Rep., Appx. VI, No. 2.

<sup>2</sup> The desiderata for a List of Records have been briefly stated by the Royal Commission (1912 and 1914 Reports), and with more detail in the *Athenæum*, 6th Aug. and 1st Oct., 1910.

history generally, the bibliographies of Charles Gross are valuable, though a new edition of his *Municipal Bibliography* is needed. The subject of archives is still more fully dealt with in a *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History* by the compilers of the present work.<sup>1</sup>

A select list of works dealing with ecclesiastical records would be at least of equal value; but for general use the select lists published in the "Political History of England" and in the "Cambridge Modern History," are very serviceable. There are good reasons for believing, however, that the subject of archives will be still more fully treated in the forthcoming "Bibliography of British Modern History," and that Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb will make further progress with their monumental *History of English Local Government*, largely based on Local Records.

Finally, there is obvious need of an up-to-date list of the record publications, issued from time to time by the Stationery Office.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, a critical Bibliography might also furnish an argument for a revision of the present system of publication.

<sup>1</sup> Ed. H. Hall, 1914; cf. *Studies*, pp. 101 *sq.*, and M. F. Moore "Two Bibliographies," etc. The results of some very valuable researches have been published or described in recent years by Messrs. C. G. Crump, C. Johnson, and C. H. Jenkinson of the Public Record Office, and, since this Introduction was written, an invaluable series of "Helps for Students of History" is being edited by Mr. Johnson and Prof. Whitney (S.P.C.K.). During recent years the study of records as historical sources has been cultivated in the History Schools of our Universities by several well-known teachers, notably by Professors Firth, Tout, Pollard, and Hearnshaw. Reference should also be made to valuable researches for the elucidation of the original sources for the National History of Language, Literature, and Science by many able scholars.

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These difficulties were largely due to an early misunderstanding of the Act of 1838 by the authorities concerned.<sup>3</sup> When the Act was passed it applied only to Judicial Records contained in certain specified repositories, partly because these were in need of immediate attention, and also because the Public Record Office had yet to be built. It was clearly intended, however, that the Act should apply eventually to "all documents whatso-

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Commission is to favour the French method of decentralization. *The Times* points out that "during the reign of Queen Victoria, hundreds of tons of Public Records, most of them of early date, were destroyed. . . . Numberless departmental records were thus disposed of down to 1877, when a statutory procedure was established by another Act. This, however, was only permissive, and the Reports of the recent Royal Commission suggest that records have been largely destroyed at the discretion of their official custodians. . . . For anything that we know to the contrary this unauthorized destruction may still continue; and certainly many opportunities were furnished by the turmoil or by the economies of the war as well as by the confused process of demobilization and reconstruction which followed the armistice . . . The Reports of the Commission have revealed the existence of a surprising quantity of historical documents in unexpected places. Some of them were found in the lobbies of Government offices, others in the towers and vestries of Cathedral and Parish churches or in the so-called strong-rooms of various local authorities. Thousands more, however, still occupy a precarious position in the store sheds of naval or military arsenals, in hired chambers or lumber rooms, and in the private offices of a hierarchy of legal custodians." While there is a serious risk of the total loss of many historical documents, the condition of all of them must inevitably deteriorate unless proper attention is paid to them and the administrative system which is chiefly responsible for these losses remains unreformed.

In 1800 the report of a select Committee of the House of Commons was responsible for the appointment of a Royal Commission which began to exercise some of the duties of administration. The efforts of that Commission were, however, chiefly limited to the publication of

a number of costly volumes, and its methods were strongly condemned by another Select Committee in 1836. The Commission was then superseded by the Public Records Act of 1838 and the Public Records were placed under the Master of the Rolls. In 1910 various reasons for discontent led to the appointment of another Royal Commission,<sup>1</sup> the terms of whose reference were very wide. Report was to be made:—

(1) As to the working of the Public Records Acts.

(2) As to all arrangements now in operation for the collection, control, custody, preservation from decay or injury, classification, description, cataloguing, indexing, calendaring, publishing, making accessible and disposing of the Public Records of England and Wales.

(3) As to the Record Publications (texts, calendars, reports and lists) since the year 1838, illustrating the national history of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

(4) As to the custody of Local Records of a public nature.

(5) As to the Record Office establishment and the training of archivists.

The Commission has presented to Parliament three Reports of a very elaborate and comprehensive nature containing in Appendices an immense amount of carefully tabulated information which throws much light upon the nature and use of the existing Public and Local Records of England and Wales. The First Report (1912) dealt with the Public Record Office: the Second Report (1914) with the papers of Government Departments, and the Third Report (1919) with Local Records of all kinds.

<sup>1</sup> The Chairman of the Commission was the Rt. Hon. Sir F. Pollock, Bt. The other members were Sir E. Vincent Evans, Prof. C. H. Firth, Dr. M. R. James, Sir F. G. Kenyon, K.C.B., Sir Sidney Lee, Dr. Henry Owen, Mr. H. R. Tedder, and Mr. W. Ll. Williams, K.C. The Secretary was Mr. Hubert Hall.

The working of the Public Record Office Acts had not been submitted to any independent expert opinion since the passing of the principal act in 1838. There is reason to fear that many Public Records which might have been useful to historians and students have been destroyed.

In the First Report (1912) many suggestions were made for the improvement of the methods and organization of the Public Record Office. Among them were recommendations that the Search Rooms should be opened to the public up to 5 o'clock each week day including Saturdays, and that there should be a revision of the existing rules for the disposal of valueless documents. It was urged that not only should the Deputy Keeper be restored to his proper function as chief archivist but that the Master of the Rolls at the first convenient opportunity should be relieved of his merely titular headship of the Record Office. The government of the Record Office should be transferred to a permanent Commission, following Continental practice, and a permanent Board of Historical Scholars should be appointed to direct the publication of calendars and other historical materials.<sup>1</sup> The "Rolls Series" of "Chronicles and Memorials" should be continued, and the planning and supervision of this series should be entrusted to the same body.

The Commission proposed the retransfer of the Public Records formerly preserved in the Principality to a Record Office in Wales.

The necessity of establishing in this country some organization akin to the *Ecole des Chartes* in Paris, possibly in association with the Public Record Office, was strongly felt. It was clear that the proper manage-

<sup>1</sup> A step towards the establishment of a permanent Board has been the creation of an Advisory Committee by the late Lord Cozens Hardy when Master of the Rolls.

ment of Municipal and Local Records must involve the services of a number of technically trained archivists.

The Second Report (1914) dealt with the Public Records now preserved in various Courts, Registries, Law Establishments and Public Government Offices and in several branches of outlying repositories thereof. One important proposal was that Departmental Records should be open to inspection when they have reached a certain age, without any exception.

The Commission also recommended that the Records and State Papers deposited by departments in the Public Record Office should be accessible under the usual conditions, and that documents of a public nature in need of better custody should be transmitted to the most suitable repository in each case. The Literary Search Department of the principal Probate Registry at Somerset House should be under the control of the permanent Commission suggested for the administration of the Public Records.

Among other special Recommendations of this Report were the following :—

Lists of Departmental Records to be published and certain departmental publications prepared.

Future transmissions of Departmental Records to the Public Record Office to be limited to documents available for public inspection.

All outstanding Judicial Records to be under the control of the Master of the Rolls for the purposes of the Public Record Office Acts of 1877 and 1898.

The custody, arrangement, and description of official documents, not transferred to the Public Record Office to be entrusted, in all cases, to trained record keepers, with an adequate staff of skilled subordinates, and

these repositories to be periodically inspected by the Public Record Office.

The national archives to be reorganized on the lines followed by other countries, namely, by establishing Departmental and District Record Offices as branch repositories under the supervision of the Permanent Commission already recommended for the government of the Public Record Office.

The Third and final Report (1919) dealt with local archives (including the out-lying Public Records of the Courts of Justice and Government Departments), County Records, Town Records, Parochial Records, Ecclesiastical Records and Records of Statutory Authorities and Public Institutions, War Committees, etc. More than 200 of these collections in England and Wales were personally inspected by members of the Commission. Other collections of Judicial or Official Records in several parts of the Kingdom had already been inspected in the course of the preparation of the First and Second Reports. Members of the Commission also visited (in 1911 and 1912) many archive establishments in France, Belgium and Holland and obtained interesting information with regard to the custody of Local Records in the Channel Islands and Dominions and Colonies. Throughout the inquiry important communications were received from learned societies, local authorities, record agents and persons engaged in historical, antiquarian or genealogical studies, as well as much valuable information from Clerks of the Peace and County Councils, Town Clerks, Chapter Clerks, Archdeacons and others. Some general legislation is necessary to secure the local records. Local offices should be established for their preservation and no Local Records of a public nature should be destroyed or disposed of except in accordance with the method provided for in the Acts. Most of the existing evils of

our custody of Local Records arise from the lack of adequate buildings and trained custodians. To remedy these conditions, suitable local centres might be established through the co-operation of the various local authorities. Such an arrangement would be more convenient to students, especially to those at provincial universities, than wholesale transfers to London. The cost of providing a common local repository should be within the means of the authorities, judging from the provision that is made for archive establishments abroad. These repositories might be under the supervision of the Public Record Office and should be periodically inspected by the Record Officers. The statutory powers of the Master of the Rolls should be enlarged, as far as may be necessary for this purpose.

The desirability of the early establishment of a Record Office in Wales has already been mentioned. The Commissioners were of the opinion that in Wales more than in any other part of the United Kingdom the Local Records had perished through actual neglect or through some lapse of proper custody, having come into the possession of private persons, such as the solicitors, agents, or other representatives of lords of manors.

The War has led to the accumulation of bewildering masses of records, accounts and papers, not to be counted and scarcely to be calculated even in figures of thousands of tons. Even after wholesale weeding, they would probably exceed in bulk all the records at present in the charge and custody of the Master of the Rolls. Many of these papers are of merely temporary interest but much remains of great future value, not only as sources for military and naval history but also as evidence of the social and economic condition of the Nation during the War.

In view of the present inadequate custody and the

historical importance of Departmental Records relating to the War, and the increasing difficulty of transferring Departmental Records of comparatively recent date to the Public Record Office, it was proposed that the old State Paper Office should be revived in the form of a special repository for all such Records since 22nd January, 1901; that it be specially constructed and equipped, and that it be situated in close proximity to the Imperial War Museum which should contain a special room for the study of records relating to the War.

Historians, students and high educational authorities are alive to the importance of this subject. The University of London is at the present moment endeavouring to establish in London a centre for Advanced Historical Studies and in an appeal for funds states that "Our marvellous National Archives, the full wealth of which has lately been emphasized by the labours of the Royal Commission on the Public Records, remain too little studied even by Englishmen".

The substance of the foregoing Note was included in a paper submitted by the writer at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Norwich on 8th September, 1920, when the following resolution was carried unanimously, viz. : "That in view of the findings of the Royal Commission as to the state of the Public and Local Records of England and Wales, His Majesty's Government should take steps to give effect, at an early date, to the Recommendations of the Royal Commission which are still practicable".

Subsequently, on 30th September, 1920, a Conference was held at King's College, Strand, summoned at the request of the British Editorial Board for the Economic History and Survey of the War Period, under the auspices of the British Academy. A large number of historians, archivists and others interested in records



attended. The following resolution was carried unanimously, viz. : "In the opinion of the Conference it is necessary that Local Records relating to the War period and other records, not the property of the Crown, relating to the same period, should be examined with a view to selection for preservation ; that such documents as are to be preserved should be duly catalogued on a uniform plan by local societies or representative local committees ; and that a Committee be appointed to consider the questions arising from the present Conference and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary for giving effect to this Resolution ". A Committee was then nominated, and held a preliminary meeting.

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## KEY TO THE PRINCIPAL ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE PRESENT WORK.

### (a) *PUBLIC RECORDS.*<sup>1</sup>

|                                    |                                  |           |                                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| P.B.O.                             | —                                | Chancery, | Petty Bag Office.                    |
| R.C.O.                             | —                                | „         | Rolls Chapel Office.                 |
| S.Cl.O.                            | —                                | „         | Six Clerks' Office.                  |
| Cr.O.                              | —                                | „         | Crown Office.                        |
| Exch. of Pleas—Exchequer of Pleas. |                                  |           |                                      |
| K.R.                               | —                                | „         | King's Remembrancer's Side.          |
| L.T.R.                             | —                                | „         | Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer's Side |
| E.R.                               | —                                | „         | of Receipt.                          |
| T.R.                               | —                                | „         | Treasury of Receipt.                 |
| A.O.                               | —Augmentation Office.            |           |                                      |
| F.F. and T.                        | —First Fruits and Tenths Office. |           |                                      |
| L.R.D.                             | —Land Revenue Department.        |           |                                      |
|                                    |                                  |           |                                      |
| K.B.                               | —KING'S BENCH.                   |           |                                      |
| Cr. Sde.                           | —                                | „         | „ Crown Side.                        |
| Pl. Sde.                           | —                                | „         | „ Pleas Side.                        |
| C.P.                               | —COMMON PLEAS.                   |           |                                      |
| D. of L.                           | —DUCHY OF LANCASTER.             |           |                                      |

### STATE PAPERS:—

|           |                        |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| S.P. Dom. | —                      | State Papers Domestic. |
| S.P. For. | —                      | State Papers Foreign.  |
|           |                        |                        |
| H.O.      | —HOME OFFICE.          |                        |
| F.O.      | —FOREIGN OFFICE.       |                        |
| C.O.      | —COLONIAL OFFICE.      |                        |
| W.O.      | —WAR OFFICE.           |                        |
| B.T.      | —BOARD OF TRADE.       |                        |
| P.R.O.    | —PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE. |                        |

<sup>1</sup> The names of sovereigns are represented in regnal dates by initial letters.

*(b) PRINTED WORKS.*

The frequent references to the lengthy titles of the First, Second, and Third Reports of the Royal Commission on Public Records (1910-1919) and other Reports, as well as to the several Hand-books, "Guides" to the Records, etc., have necessitated the following short titles. It should be added that in the Section on Local Archives (pp. 174-254) the page references to the above Reports are in nearly all cases to the respective Appendices. Short titles have been used, as far as possible in references to other authorities. The titles of local periodicals, when abbreviated, can be ascertained from a preceding reference. See also Appendix C below.

- 1800 Report—Reports of the Select Committee on the Public Records. (1799-1800), (Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XV).
- 1835 „ —Reports of the Royal Commission on Municipal Corporations. (1835-1839.)
- 1837 „ —General Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records. (1800-1837.)
- 1880 „ —Report of the Royal Commission on Municipal Corporations. (1876-1880.)
- 1902 „ —Report of the Local Records Committee. (1899-1901.)
- 1912 „ —First Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records. (1910-1919), (Vol. I, Parts I-III).
- 1914 „ —Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records. (1910-1919), (Vol. II., Parts I-III).
- 1919 „ —Third Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records. (1910-1919), (Vol. III, Parts I-III).
- D.K. „ —Annual Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. (1840, etc.)
- H.M.C. —Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. (1870, etc.)
- V.C.H. —The Victoria County History. (1900, etc.)
- N. and Q. —*Notes and Queries*. (1850, etc.)

*(c) LOCAL AUTHORITIES.*

- T.C. —Town Clerk.
- R.D.C.—Rural District Council.
- U.D.C.—Urban District Council.
- P.C. —Parish Council.
- T.T. —Town Trust.

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A 1

PART I  
A SELECT  
CLASSIFIED LIST OF PUBLIC  
RECORDS



PART I.  
A SELECT  
CLASSIFIED LIST OF PUBLIC  
RECORDS.

I. DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS.

THIS Section includes instruments, such as Charters, Deeds, Writs, Letters, Treaties, etc., under Seal or Sign Manual, together with drafts, memoranda, or other documents subsidiary thereto. Among the documents of this nature now preserved in the Public Record Office are many private instruments which were placed in the Royal Treasury or other repository at various dates. On the other hand, many official instruments have been diverted or removed from the State Archives, and are now preserved in private collections. It may be noticed that the original documents in official custody have been, for the most part, received from individual litigants or correspondents, whilst the rolls, files, or books are mostly of official origin. The earlier Diplomatic Documents are chiefly found in the Chancery and Exchequer, whilst the later Letters and State Papers are derived from the Secretariat and other Departments of State.

Nearly all the above types are to be found in the Public Record Office down to a comparatively modern date, but documents of various dates are preserved in

certain Departmental repositories where they are usually inaccessible to students.<sup>1</sup>

### I. INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GREAT SEAL AND COGNATE OR SUBSIDIARY DOCUMENTS.<sup>2</sup>

These documents are not brought together in the various hand-books to the Public Records. The originals are mixed with instruments under the smaller Royal Seals, and with private Deeds, whilst copies enrolled or entered in books will be found scattered amongst the Records of the several Courts. Although the inrolments are far more convenient for reference, the original instruments under Seal will occasionally prove valuable, and in a few cases they are even unique.<sup>3</sup> The historical interest of the whole group is well known.

In the following list it will be seen that, besides the important classes of Charters and Letters Patent or Close, mention is made of a number of subsidiary and irregular instruments which are described in the official *Guide*.

Although the curial seals of the Exchequer, King's Bench, and Common Pleas differ in design from the Great Seal of the Royal Chancery, they have been included here.<sup>4</sup> Instruments under the Great or "Double" Seals of the Palatine Courts and the processes of certain curial departments or local jurisdictions are described below (I. (3)).

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 161 *sq.*, and Appendix A. These documents will presumably be transferred to the Record Office in due course.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding the Departmental or Provincial Seals mentioned below (pp. 26-30). For the nature and use of the Great Seal, see Hall, *Studies*, pp. 215-228.

<sup>3</sup> See *Formula Book*, Part I (*passim*). It may be observed that many documents not of a diplomatic nature are to be found amongst the Chancery Enrolments; *cf.* below, II (3).

<sup>4</sup> The Seal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, still preserved by the King's Remembrancer, is not included here.



## A. ROYAL CHARTERS AND CONFIRMATIONS.

For the purpose of the student of Historical Sources the distinction between these diplomatic forms, which is sometimes rather a fine one, may perhaps be disregarded. It is certainly convenient to include both forms under the same heading down to the beginning of the 13th century. Similarly, as the distinction between Royal Charters and Writs is seldom recognised, either by contemporary or modern writers, they may be grouped together with advantage during the earlier period.

**Classified List of Royal Charters and Confirmations.<sup>1</sup>**

A.D. 974-1516.

*Originals.*

Duchy of Lancaster—Royal Charters (W. II—G. II).

*Inrolments.*Chancery—Charter Rolls (1 J.—8 H. VIII); Confirmation Rolls (1 R. III—C. I); *Cartae Antiquae*,<sup>2</sup> (R. I—H. III).

## B. WRITS AND LETTERS.

(a) Writs (*Brevia regia*).

The distinction between Writs and Letters under the Great Seal is not a very clear one. Roughly speaking,

<sup>1</sup> A few later copies, as well as contemporary inrolments, of instruments having the effect of Charters and Confirmations, though in a different diplomatic style, will be found on the Patent Rolls and other Chancery inrolments from the 13th century onwards. Original Royal Charters will be found scattered in other series, and these will be referred to below (C.). Others exist in official custody, but are not yet accessible (p. 9). Many more are still preserved in private custody, and will be referred to elsewhere. Other original Charters are noticed below under Special Collections.

<sup>2</sup> These ancient official transcripts must be distinguished from the series preserved in the Augmentation Office (D.K. 4th Rept., p. 12), of which more than 120 rolls were reported missing in 1843. As in the case of the two preceding series, they include charters dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period.

the former term applies to legal, and the latter to administrative documents. For administrative purposes the most familiar type is the writ of inquiry, the returns to which are known as "Inquisitions" of various kinds. For judicial purposes, there were "Original" writs from the Chancery and "Judicial" writs from the Courts of Justice.

An obvious difficulty arises in respect of the classification of the originating writs, and the attached returns in the shape of Pleadings, Depositions, Accounts, and other judicial or ministerial proceedings, which are not always in the form of diplomatic documents.

As to the historical value and use of the whole class of writs, it would perhaps be found that the "writ-characters" and "missive writs" have been in most request. The forms of the legal writs are purely conventional, and they are printed in the *Registrum Brevium*. At the same time their historical and technical significance must not be ignored.<sup>1</sup>

Further reference to the "writs missive" will be made under the head of "Letters under the Great Seal," but certain types, such as military, fiscal, and parliamentary writs, are actually Writs and not Letters. Again, other Chancery writs have a special interest in connection with the returns which are, or were, attached to them. The latter have been partially printed in several well-known editions, and a study of the parent writ is desirable in these cases.<sup>2</sup> Some of these Returns are noticed below under the headings "Ministerial Proceedings" and "Judicial Proceedings".

The so-called *Brevia Regia et Recorda* formed only a portion of the instruments formerly to be found on the Chancery Files, which are now under arrangement.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See 1912 Report, Appendix (III), p. 164.

<sup>2</sup> See *Formula Book* (Part II), v. "Inquisitions".

<sup>3</sup> See Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* pp. 15-18.

The four official series of "Inquisitions" that have been recently distinguished are mentioned below, and fuller information may be found in the *Formula Book* (Part II), where these Writs and Returns have been classified as Feudal, Political, or Statutory, and Judicial Inquisitions.

The titles mentioned in the official *Guide* and in official Lists show that a vast collection of curial and departmental writs is preserved in the Public Record Office amongst the subsidiary proceedings of the Courts of Law.<sup>1</sup> It may be assumed that these can be of no practical value as they are for the most part recited in the Pleadings, while their purport can be ascertained from the Precedent Books above referred to. At the same time the relationship of the subsidiary records to the main series of pleadings is in need of further elucidation, and this may be furnished by the large mass of miscellaneous records in official custody.

## Classified List of Writs and Letters under the Great Seal.<sup>2</sup>

### (a) Writs (and Returns).

#### *Originals.*

Chancery—*Brevia Regia* (Tower, Rolls Chapel, and Petty Bag Series) ; Parliamentary Writs and Military Summonses (13-18 C.) ; Inquisitions (13-17 C.) ; Miscellanea<sup>3</sup> (*passim*).  
Exchequer (K.R.).—Inquisitions,<sup>4</sup> etc.

<sup>1</sup> 1912 Report (Pt. I), p. 9. Probably a great many others have been preserved amongst the miscellaneous proceedings of the Court of Exchequer.

<sup>2</sup> The Tower Series is now under arrangement with the "Chancery Files". See also below (p. 72) under Chancery, "Common Law Proceedings".

<sup>3</sup> This class contains many valuable records. For the several series, see Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* p. 58.

<sup>4</sup> Many writs for Inquisitions are preserved amongst the "Lay Subsidies," "Serjeanties," "Escheators' Files," "Trial of the Pyx," "Rentals and Surveys," "Forest Proceedings," and special collections, such as the "Hundred Rolls" (Chapter House Series), "Exchequer Proceedings," etc. See below, p. 51.

Special Collections—Writs, etc., recovered from Westminster Abbey, etc.

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Enrolments (*passim*)<sup>1</sup>; Crown Office, Entry Books of Writs.<sup>2</sup>

Exchequer—Miscellanea; Memoranda Rolls (*passim*); Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).

|                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Exch. of Pl.                   | } | Original and Judicial Writs and returns (also re-cited in records of Pleadings or in Subsidiary Proceedings) (13-19 C.). |
| King's Bench                   |   |  |
| Common Pleas <sup>3</sup>      |   |  |
| Palatinate Courts <sup>4</sup> |   |  |

King's Bench—Controlment Rolls (1327→).

(b) Letters Patent.

Before the development of the Departments of State, the greater part of public business was carried on by the Chancery and is recorded in its inrolments. Of these the Patent Rolls form the most numerous and important series which illustrates the diversified activities of the Crown. Speaking generally, Letters Patent were used for business of a judicial and administrative nature, but the matters dealt with in the Patent Rolls can be grouped more or less roughly into the entries concerned with foreign relations, internal administration, and the estates of the Crown. The business of internal administration is exhibited in its widest aspect.<sup>5</sup>

The Supplementary Patent Rolls, a description of which will be found below, were used, for reasons of departmental convenience, to record Letters Patent of a special and uniform nature. After the establishment of the Civil List (1 Anne, c. 7), and the restriction on the

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Close Rolls, Supplementary Close Rolls, Liberate Rolls, Redisseisin Rolls, Scutage Rolls, Foreign or Treaty Rolls.

<sup>2</sup> See 1914 Report, App. (II), p. 205.

<sup>3</sup> Including the Alienation Office.

<sup>4</sup> See below, Division 3, under Palatinate Records.

<sup>5</sup> For details, see T. D. Hardy, *Introduction to Rot. Litt. Pat.*; Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* p. 27, and Hall, *Studies*, pp. 249-253.

disposal of the Land Revenues of the Crown, the Patent Rolls chiefly contain grants of offices and pensions, creations of nobility, and Letters Patent of invention and denization; but the rolls had already gradually lost, from Tudor times, the multifarious character which distinguishes them during the mediæval period.

### Classified List of Letters Patent.

*Originals.* See below (C.).<sup>1</sup>

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Patent Rolls (gen. ser.) (3 J.—3 G. V); Supplementary Patent Rolls<sup>2</sup> (4 E. I—22 G. II); Bishops' Patent Rolls<sup>3</sup> (9 G. I—38 Vict.); Dispensation Rolls<sup>4</sup> (37 Eliz.—1745).

### (c) Letters Close.

The Letters entered on the Close Rolls were usually issued as royal missives to certain specified individuals. They were therefore closed, not open like the Letters Patent. As a general rule they contained an injunction or command to the individual addressed to perform some definite piece of business. They include diplomatic and miscellaneous correspondence.

The information given in these documents is naturally minute and detailed and is of peculiar value to the

<sup>1</sup> Original Patents of appointment for various offices will be found amongst the Departmental Records (*e.g.* Admiralty, Treasury, etc.), some of which have not yet been transferred to the Public Record Office. For composite collections of original Letters Patent, *see* below (C.). For Drafts of Letters Patent, *see* below (D.). For Letters Patent under Palatinate Seals, *see* below, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> These include Pardons, Protections, Passes, Denizations, Commissions, and Appointments which were formerly regarded as distinct series of inrolments (Pardon Rolls, Protection Rolls, Denization Rolls, Staple Rolls). *See* below, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> For Offices in an earlier period, *see* the general series of Rolls.

<sup>4</sup> Enrolments by the Clerk of the Faculties of approbations of instruments issued by the Master of the Faculties.

student of mediæval, constitutional, and economic history.<sup>1</sup>

On the back of the Rolls are frequently entered copies of various state papers and administrative acts, judicial proceedings, acknowledgments of debt, private deeds, inquisitions, partitions and assignments of land, proclamations, orders for knighthood, and summonses to Parliament, etc.

With the development of the organization of the Secretariat, the various mandatory letters on diplomatic, fiscal, military, commercial, or ecclesiastic subjects are recorded by the Departments to which they belong, and deeds, agreements, etc., inrolled, constitute almost the entire contents of the latter Close Rolls.

### Classified List of Letters Close.

#### *Inrolments.*<sup>2</sup>

Chancery—Close Rolls (1205-1903); Supplementary Close Rolls (1243-1434).<sup>3</sup>

### C. COMPOSITE COLLECTIONS.

This sub-division has been made by us in order to avoid the repetition of references to various series of Chancery enrolments, which comprise more than one kind of instrument, whilst others are inrolled or entered in Inrolments or Precedent Books of the several Courts.

The section includes several series of instruments of a departmental or local character. For the most part

<sup>1</sup> For details, see Thomas, *op. cit.* p. 8; Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* p. 29; T. D. Hardy, *Description of the Close Rolls* (1833); and Hall, *Studies*, pp. 253-257.

<sup>2</sup> No considerable collection of original Letters Close under Seal now exists.

<sup>3</sup> Including the former series of Exchange Rolls (6 Ric. II—12 H. VI), and Passage Rolls (E. III—R. II), and series of formal writs of a legal nature. The "Surrender Rolls" should apparently be included with this series.

these are in the form of Letters Patent and Letters Close,<sup>1</sup> though Charters, Confirmations, Writs, and Diplomatic Documents are also inrolled here.<sup>2</sup> Besides these, there are several series of inrolments which have not usually been regarded as being in the nature either of Letters Patent or of Letters Close. Some of these are in the style of Letters Close,<sup>3</sup> whilst others are compilations of a constitutional or departmental nature.<sup>4</sup> The purely judicial inrolments of Decrees and Recognizances, which have been included in the official list of Chancery Inrolments are omitted here and are referred to under Judicial Proceedings.

### Classified List of Composite Collections.

#### *Originals.*

Chancery<sup>5</sup>—Original Letters Patent<sup>6</sup> (13-17 C.); Diplomatic Documents<sup>7</sup> (13-16 C.).

Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>8</sup> (13-16 C.).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Original Letters Patent (13-18 C.).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For subjects of the "Supplementary Patent Rolls," *see* above, p. 7, *n.* 2. Probably the Bishops' Patent Rolls, Dispensation Rolls, and Surrender Rolls might also be included amongst Supplementary Patent and Close Rolls. The Exchange Rolls are now placed amongst the latter.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the so-called Foreign or Treaty Rolls (French, Gascon, Norman, Almain, Roman, Scotch, Irish, Welsh), now rearranged.

<sup>3</sup> *e.g.* the Fine and Oblata Rolls, the Scutage Rolls, the Liberate Rolls, and Redisseisin Rolls.

<sup>4</sup> *e.g.* the Statute, Parliament, Coronation, and Extract Rolls.

<sup>5</sup> A large and valuable collection of Royal Charters and Ancient Deeds is known to be preserved among the Chancery Masters' Documents, now under arrangement.

<sup>6</sup> Some of these are cancelled, others are uncanceled. Most of these instruments are Letters Patent. This collection has been recently distributed among "Ancient Deeds" (C.).

<sup>7</sup> Including many foreign notarial instruments.

<sup>8</sup> Royal Charters, Letters Patent and Writs mounted on guards.

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Letters Patent (and Privy Seals) for loans (H. VII—C. I); Diplomatic Documents<sup>1</sup> (13-16 C.).

Court of Wards and Liveries—Deeds, Charters and Evidences<sup>2</sup> (E. I—C. I).

Special Collections—Ancient Deeds (12-17 C.).<sup>3</sup>

Departmental Records—Ecclesiastical Commission (various) (13-18 C.)<sup>4</sup>; Original Patents of Commissions, etc.<sup>5</sup> (18-19 C.).

Documents deposited (in the P.R.O.)—Original Charters<sup>6</sup> and Miscellaneous Collections<sup>7</sup> (17 C.).

### *Inrolments.*

Chancery<sup>8</sup>—Foreign (or Treaty) Rolls<sup>9</sup>; Scutage Rolls<sup>10</sup> (16 J.—2 E. III); Redisseisin Rolls<sup>11</sup> (14 E. I—6 E. IV); Liberate Rolls<sup>12</sup> (2 J.—14 H. VI); Fine Rolls<sup>13</sup> (1 J.—23 C. I); Extract Rolls

<sup>1</sup> Including many foreign notarial instruments.

<sup>2</sup> See also below (3).

<sup>3</sup> Many Royal Charters will be found in this collection which is derived from the Records of the Chancery and Exchequer.

<sup>4</sup> Not yet transferred to the Public Record Office. See 1914 Report, Appendix (II), p. 32.

<sup>5</sup> Chiefly for appointments of Boards and Officers. Some not yet transferred to the Public Record Office.

<sup>6</sup> *e.g.* Anglo-Saxon Charter, A.D. 974 (D.K. 32 Report, p. 4 *sq.*) and Anglo-Norman Charter, H. II (D.K. 35 Report, p. 15). Facsimiles of both have been published.

<sup>7</sup> *e.g.* the Manchester and Shaftesbury MSS., and Venetian transcripts.

<sup>8</sup> The ancient classification of inrolments has been considerably modified in recent years, whilst the Irish Rolls and some other individual Rolls have been dispersed.

<sup>9</sup> For a description of the contents of these inrolments, see Public Record Office, Lists and Indexes, xxvii (Preface).

<sup>10</sup> Inrolments of the writs allowing Scutage to military tenants who had performed due service.

<sup>11</sup> Statutory writs, in a special form, for the relief of persons unlawfully disseised a second time. Estreats of these were also entered in the Exchequer (*see* "Originalia" Rolls).

<sup>12</sup> Orders to the Exchequer to pay out monies and salary lists, etc.

<sup>13</sup> A few Charters and many Letters Patent are inrolled here, *e.g.* in the 14th century, but the bulk of the instruments are Letters Close. Appointments of Customers are entered here down to the 17th century (*see* Bishops' Patent Rolls).



(14 H. III—23 E. III);<sup>1</sup> Parliament Rolls<sup>2</sup> (1 E. III—49 Vict.); Statute Rolls<sup>3</sup> (6 E. I—8 E. IV); Coronation Rolls<sup>2</sup> (E. II—G. V); Marshalsea Rolls<sup>3</sup> (5 E. I—16 E. II).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Pipe Rolls<sup>4</sup> (1131-1834); Originalia Rolls<sup>5</sup> (H. III—1851).

Exchequer (K.R. and L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls<sup>6</sup> (10 R. I—).

Exchequer (K.R., T. of R., A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books.<sup>7</sup>

Exchequer (K.R.)—Transcripts of Charters and Deeds<sup>8</sup> (E. I—E. III).

Exchequer (R.)—Patent (and Privy Seal) Rolls and Books<sup>9</sup> (1509-1834).

Colonial Office—Board of Trade Entry Books<sup>10</sup> (1674-1782).

#### D. CONVENTIONAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GREAT SEAL.

In this sub-division are included series of diplomatic documents which were originally or normally in the form of Letters Patent or Close, but which eventually assumed a conventional character, owing to their political or economic significance. In some cases (*e.g.* Patents of Invention) even the formality of execution under the Great

<sup>1</sup> Memoranda of Grants, etc., made by Charters and Letters Patent.

<sup>2</sup> The early Rolls include many writs and other diplomatic documents, but the greater part of both series is judicial; *cf.* Exchequer, "Parliament Rolls," etc.

<sup>3</sup> These are Departmental Memoranda in connexion with the Scutage Rolls.

<sup>4</sup> A few Charters are entered here *specialiori modo*.

<sup>5</sup> Estreats of Charters, Fines, Writs of Redisseisin, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Letters Patent and writs are frequently inrolled here.

<sup>7</sup> Some of these are "made" collections (*e.g.* A.O.), others are entries *specialiori modo*.

<sup>8</sup> A suspicious collection of early Royal Charters to religious houses, etc., temp. E. I, etc.

<sup>9</sup> Several series of Pells' and Auditors' records containing entries of Letters Patent, etc., which were the authority for payment of fees, liveries, etc. These were entered here *specialiori modo*, but this source is more valuable in respect of instruments under the Privy Seal than under the Great Seal.

<sup>10</sup> See Andrews' *Guide*, Vol. I, p. 109. These are 17th century Charters. In addition to the above instruments under the English Chancery Seal, others can be found amongst the Palatinate and "Duchy" (Lancaster) records (Chancery Enrolments, etc.).

Seal has been dispensed with. Instruments of this nature are usually classified as separate collections. At the same time, it is important to note their actual relationship with earlier forms of diplomatic documents.

The most noticeable types of conventional Letters under the Great Seal are Commissions, Leases, Specifications for Patent Inventions, Treaties, and Proclamations.

(a) *Commissions*.—These are almost the commonest instruments found on the mediæval Patent Rolls, but the large majority of appointments made since the 16th century are under Sign-Manual Warrants. This formality is now dispensed with in the case of most naval, military, and civil appointments which are authorised by a departmental letter, and published in the *London Gazette*.

(b) *Leases and Indentures*, since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, began to take the place of grants of Crown Lands or forfeited estates, and they are closely connected with the departmental supervision of the Treasury or of the Surveyor-General of Crown Lands, represented by the modern office of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues.<sup>1</sup> The procedure in the grant of a lease involves a whole series of diplomatic documents.

Many Petitions, References, and Reports relating to Leases will be found amongst the Papers of the Office of H.M. Woods, etc. It is believed that copies are still preserved at Whitehall. Some Leases were under the Great Seal; others were under the Exchequer Seal and the Seal of the Court of Wards and Liveries. Since 1821 Crown Leases have been procured or executed by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.<sup>2</sup>

Of a like nature are the Indentures entered into by the Crown under certain business arrangements (*e.g.*

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 86.

<sup>2</sup> Leases within the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall are preserved in those departments.

“Indentures of War”), the counterparts executed by the Sovereign being sealed with the Great Seal, though drawn in the conventional form of a private concord.

(c) *Patents and Specifications of Inventions*.—This is now the most familiar use of the term Patent, but the instrument is no longer entered on the Patent Roll. In the earliest period of such grants, namely, in the 16th and 17th centuries, they were duly entered on the Patent or Close Rolls. By degrees the “Specification” or description of the Patent became of paramount importance, and as late as 1853 they were inrolled in one of the Chancery Offices. Next, the Specifications were filed instead of being inrolled, and eventually they were printed and published.<sup>1</sup> The files of Specifications were formerly deposited in the Public Record Office, but they have been re-transferred to the Patent Office. Between 1853 and 1883 the Great Seal was affixed to Patents for Inventions under Warrants of the Commissioners of Patents.<sup>2</sup> Since 1883 the Seal of the Patent Office (now a branch of the Board of Trade) has been substituted for the Great Seal.

(d) *Treaties*.—These instruments will be found inrolled on the Chancery Inrolments as late as the reign of Charles II,<sup>3</sup> and in the 13th century, especially, they may be found in the form of Letters Patent. From the first, however, the Treaty must be regarded as a convention or agreement, whilst its cosmopolitan character<sup>4</sup> soon led to the universal use of a notarial style. The preparation of Treaties or Treaty Papers was the duty of the Prothonotary’s Office in Chancery down to the

<sup>1</sup> 15 & 16 Vict., c. 82.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*; neither the Warranty nor the Patents are inrolled, only registered at the Patent Office.

<sup>3</sup> French Rolls. In Edwards’ *Synopsis*, Treaty Rolls are said to exist for the 18th century.

<sup>4</sup> As in the case of the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty jurisdictions.

beginning of the 18th century, when the preparation of Treaties was apparently undertaken by the Secretary of State's department. It will be seen from the classified list below that these records have been scattered, and that the several collections overlap. It is believed that many treaty papers are now missing, though some have been preserved in private collections. A complete list of Treaties affecting this country should long ago have been compiled. Even the biography of the subject is defective, and the early printed texts are most unsatisfactory.<sup>1</sup>

(e) *Proclamations*.—Like Treaties and certain special forms of Letters Patent, these instruments were distinguished from an early period by an appropriate style and formula of execution.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, they normally passed through the usual stages of preparation for the attachment of the Great Seal; but the conventional type of Proclamation is a printed broadside with conspicuous protocols. The originals under the Great Seal are not apparently officially preserved, though they are inrolled on the Patent Rolls.

### Classified List of Conventional Instruments.

#### (a) Commissions.

##### *Originals.*

Chancery (P.B.)—Commissions and Special Commissions (J. I—Vict.).

Chancery—Miscellanea, Special Commissions (E. II—J. I).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Special Commissions (Eliz.—Vict.).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Diplomatic Documents<sup>3</sup> (*passim*); S.P. Dom. (*passim*).

##### *Inrolments.*

Chancery<sup>4</sup>—Diplomatic Documents<sup>3</sup> (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> Since this was written a valuable treatise has been published by Sir E. Satow: Miss F. G. Davenport and Sir J. Macdonell have made learned studies of the subject.

<sup>2</sup> e.g. "By the King" and "God Save the King".

<sup>3</sup> Commissions to Plenipotentiaries, etc., in a notarial style.

<sup>4</sup> See also on the dorse of the Patent and Close Rolls.

Exchequer (K.R. and L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls (*passim*).

Departmental Records—

S.P. For. and F.O.—King's Letters<sup>1</sup> (17-19 C.).

W.O.—Commissions and Warrants<sup>2</sup> (17-19 C.).

Adm.—Commissions and Warrants<sup>2</sup> (17-19 C.).

C.O.—Commissions (1662→) and Board of Trade (Commercial Series),<sup>3</sup> (1696→).

(b) Leases and Indentures.

*Originals.*

Office of H.M. Woods, etc.—Original Leases.<sup>4</sup>

H.M. Office of Works—Original Deeds.<sup>4</sup>

Court of Wards and Liveries—Miscellaneous Books<sup>5</sup> (*passim*).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Accounts, Various (Army, etc.), (*passim*).

Exchequer (A.O. and K.R.)—Counterparts of Crown Leases, etc.

State Papers Domestic (*passim*).

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Patent Rolls (*passim*).

Exchequer (R.)—Auditors' Patent Books (*passim*).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Inrolments of Leases (*passim*).

Exchequer (T.R.)—Entry Books of Leases (*passim*).

Exchequer (K.R. and A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).

Land Revenue Office—Inrolments of Grants and Leases (H. VIII→).

Treasury Records—Crown Lease Books (1727-1818).

Warrants (not money), (1679-1727).

(c) Inventions, Patents and Specifications of.

*Originals.*

Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (Series II), (*passim*).

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Patent and Close Rolls (H. 7—Geo. IV).

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Specification and Surrender Rolls (1712→).

Chancery (R.C.O.)—Specification and Surrender Rolls (1712→).

Patent Office—Specifications of Patent Inventions (1852→).

<sup>1</sup> Commissions to Consuls, etc.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* under the Smaller Seals or Sign Manual by devolution.

<sup>3</sup> This series belonged formerly, and properly, to the records of the Board of Trade whose earlier records (before 1784) have recently been re-classified with the Colonial Office records.

<sup>4</sup> Under the hand or Seal of departmental officers.

<sup>5</sup> Under the Seal of the Court.

(d) Treaties and Treaty Papers.<sup>1</sup>*Originals.*

- Special Collections—Ancient Correspondence<sup>2</sup> (13-15 C.).  
 Chancery, Miscellanea—Diplomatic Documents (13-16 C.).  
 Exchequer (T. of R.)—Diplomatic Documents (12-17 C.).  
 S.P. For.—Treaties, Treaty Papers, Archives (16-18 C.).  
 F.O.—Treaties (Protocols and Ratifications (18-19 C.); Archives (18-19 C.).

*Inrolments.*

- Chancery—Inrolments<sup>2</sup> (12-17 C.).  
 Exchequer (T. of R.)—*Libri Munimentorum* (13 C.).  
 Exchequer (K.R.)—Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).  
 S.P. For.—Foreign Entry Books (16-18 C.).  
 F.O.—King's Letter Books (18-19 C.); Miscellaneous<sup>3</sup> (18-19 C.).

## (e) Proclamations.

*Originals.*

- Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (Ser. II), (16-18 C.).  
 Privy Council Office Records—Papers<sup>4</sup> (17-19 C.).  
 S.P. Dom.—Proclamations (16-17 C.).  
 S.P. Suppl. (*passim*).  
 S.O.—King's Bills (1661 →).

*Inrolments.*

- Chancery—Patent Rolls (13-18 C.).

E. DOCUMENTS (UNSEALED) SUBSIDIARY OR INCIDENTAL TO INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GREAT SEAL.<sup>5</sup>

(a) *Subsidiary Documents.*—These were utilized to procure the issue of letters or writs under the Great Seal, as in the case of drafts and memoranda from which the official transcript was compiled or Docquets, Formula Books, and Precedent Books used for official instruments.

<sup>1</sup> *cf.* *Formula Book*, I, 129 (n.).

<sup>2</sup> See above, Treaty Rolls.

<sup>3</sup> Many "Full Powers," etc., are entered here.

<sup>4</sup> Formerly preserved at the Privy Council Office.

<sup>5</sup> Some of these approach closely to the nature of the Miscellaneous class of Records (*see* below, p. 88).

The references given here, especially to the latter group of instruments, could be added to almost indefinitely from the partially arranged series of Departmental Records now deposited in the Public Record Office, as well as from others that are still preserved in Departmental archives.

### Classified List of Subsidiary Documents.

#### (a) Drafts.

##### *Originals.*<sup>1</sup>

- Chancery—Chancery Files (*passim*).
- Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Drafts of Demises (Eliz.—C. II).  
(L.R.O.)<sup>2</sup>—Particulars for Grants (H. VIII—G. II).

#### (b) Memoranda, Notes, Abstracts, etc.

##### *Originals.*<sup>1</sup>

- Chancery—Six Clerks' Office (Papers of), (17-18 C.); Chancery Files (*passim*); Miscellanea (*passim*).
- Chancery (P.B.O.)—Memoranda for Writs, etc.
- Exchequer—Miscellanea (*passim*).
- Exchequer (K.R.)—Exchequer Proceedings (*passim*).
- (L.R.O.)—Auditors' Memoranda (H. VII—W. IV).
- S.P. Dom.—(*passim*).

##### *Inrolments.*

- Chancery—Inrolments (*passim*).
- Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls (*passim*); Originalia Rolls (*passim*).
- Exchequer—Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).
- Land Revenue Office—Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).
- Palatinate of Chester—Recognizance Rolls (*passim*).
- S.P. Dom.—Entry Books, Various (*passim*).
- Departmental Records (*passim*).
- Treasury—Miscellanea, Caveat Books (1678-1791).

<sup>1</sup> Numerous documents also occur among the State Papers and Departmental Records.

<sup>2</sup> The Land Revenue Office was, till 1832, a department of the Exchequer; then, till 1903, an independent department. It is now a branch of the Public Record Office.

## (c) Docquets.

*Original.*

S.P. Dom. "Docquets"; Docquet Books (16-18 C.).<sup>1</sup>

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Crown Office; Inrolment Office;<sup>2</sup> Privy Seal Office; Signet Office (16-19 C.).

(d) Formula Books.<sup>3</sup>*Inrolments.*

Chancery (P.B.O.)<sup>4</sup>—Precedent Books of Writs (1715—); Forms of Oaths.

Cursitors' Records—Precedent Books of Writs (1740—).

Exchequer Miscellanea—Registers and Rolls of Writs, Accounts, etc. (H. III—H. VI).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Entry Books of Writs (1725-1842).<sup>5</sup>

Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books, No. 169 (14 C.).

King's Bench (Plea Side)<sup>6</sup>—Miscellaneous Books, No. 96.

S.P. Dom.—Precedent Books (17-18 C.).

H.O.—Precedent Book (18-19 C.).

## (e) Precedent Books.

There is another class of Precedent Books made not so much to serve as models for drafting, but as constitutional or departmental precedents. Familiar examples will be found in the so-called "Books of Remembrance" of the Exchequer (Red and Black Books) and the *Libri Munimentorum* and *Liber Memorandum* of the same Court. Other examples will

<sup>1</sup> The Docquets are also written in the margins of successive Warrants for the issue of the Great Seal.

<sup>2</sup> Including Registers of Inventions now at the Patent Office.

<sup>3</sup> Similar documents may be found amongst the Palatinate and Duchy records.

<sup>4</sup> An interesting series of Formula Books dating from the 15th century was recently preserved at the Crown Office (House of Lords), see 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 205.

<sup>5</sup> An earlier volume is still preserved in the King's Remembrancer's Office (Royal Courts of Justice).

<sup>6</sup> A single volume (17-19 C.) is still preserved in the Crown Office (Royal Courts of Justice).



be found amongst the "Miscellaneous Books" of the Exchequer at large, the "Miscellaneous Rolls" of the Chancery, the "Special Enrolments" of the Petty Bag Office, the "Special Events" of the Lord Chamberlain's Department, the War Office "Miscellany Books," and many other sources.<sup>1</sup>

#### F. DOCUMENTS UNSEALED INCIDENTAL TO INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GREAT SEAL.

These comprise a large number of miscellaneous documents deposited in the Chancery as memorials or vouchers in connection with the issue of Charters, Writs or Letters, under the Great Seal. They may be of value in tracing the issue of such instruments<sup>2</sup> or in revealing the motive of the application.

(a) *Petitions* (including Addresses and Memorials).—Isolated documents (originals) will be found on the Chancery Files (Warrants for the Great Seal) amongst the Chancery "Miscellanea," Special Collections (Ancient Petitions), Crown Office Records (Commissions of Sewers), as well as amongst the State Papers Domestic and the Home Office Records. In another aspect Petitions may be classified as Correspondence.<sup>3</sup>

(b) *Certificates*.—These were either put in as vouchers to accounts or were prepared in accordance with statutory or departmental instructions. Some of the more notable forms are dealt with as sealed instruments below.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Some valuable Muniment Books of this nature are preserved in the Admiralty Registry (Royal Courts of Justice). Others are preserved in several departmental libraries, including the Office of H.M. Woods and the Royal Mint. (*See* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 190-191.)

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* the Hanaper Accounts. Surrenders of Office, being quit-claims duly executed on relinquishing an office granted under the Great Seal, will be noticed under the head of Semi-official and Departmental Instruments.

<sup>3</sup> *See* below (6). <sup>4</sup> *See* pp. 35-36.

(c) *Accounts*.—The only class of Accounts that directly elucidate the issue of the Great Seal are those presented by the Clerks or Comptrollers of the Hanaper of the Chancery. These form an extensive series, original accounts being preserved amongst the Exchequer records of the King's Remembrancer's Department and of the Auditors of the Imprest, now known as "Audit Office, Accounts Various". Inrolments are found amongst the records of the Exchequer (L.T.R.) and Pipe and Audit Offices (Declared Accounts) and are also abstracted in other classes of Exchequer inrolments.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE SMALLER SEALS AND SIGN MANUAL WARRANTS.

*Writs and Letters for Administrative Purposes*.—For the origin and nature of these instruments, reference may be made to diplomatic treatises.<sup>2</sup> No positive distinction has been made in the official classification of the Public Records between this and the related group of Warrants for the Great Seal. Both sources have been used indiscriminately by historical writers, and the terms "Writ," "Letter," or "Warrant" are applied to each. It is obvious, however, that the historical value of the two sources is very different, the missive or executive instruments being of greater interest than the departmental orders authorizing the issue of the Seals. The former also are less frequently found in official custody, except in connexion with the routine business of the Exchequer, the Royal Household and the later Secretarial Departments.

It will be seen that these sources extend from the

<sup>1</sup> See *Formula Book*, Part II, p. 91 sq.

<sup>2</sup> E. Déprez, *Etudes de Diplomatie Anglaise*; Hall, *Studies*, pp. 258 sq. and 358, and *Formula Book*, Part I, p. 92 sq.

13th century to the 19th. The official establishments of the Privy Seal and Signet no longer exist, and the use of the latter has been elaborated in the course of official devolution. The Royal Warrant, however, is still employed for formal as well as for departmental purposes.<sup>1</sup>

*Warrants for the Great Seal.*—It has been previously observed that no distinction has been made in official lists, etc., between missive writs and departmental warrants to procure the issue of the several Seals. From one point of view the latter, being subsidiary to Charters, Letters Patent, or Close and other instruments under the Great Seal, might seem to be of no practical value. It has been found, however, that these Warrants sometimes supply a missing inrolment or supplement its meaning. Moreover, the substance of the documents given in the Warrants or in the Docket Books connected therewith is frequently presented in a more convenient form for reference. The procedure in connexion with these Warrants has been described in many works of reference, but that which obtained in the mediæval period is in need of further elucidation.<sup>2</sup>

*Subsidiary Documents.*—These are closely analogous to the documents subsidiary to the instruments under the Great Seal; but the issue of the Smaller Seals has been a matter of individual administration, and this increases the difficulty of bringing together the subsidiary documents in the form of drafts. There are, however, some fortunate survivals in the shape of Docquet Books, Fee Books, etc., found in the Privy Seal and Signet Offices when these were abolished.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Anson, *Law and Custom* (1907), II (i), pp. 50 sq. and 169.

<sup>2</sup> D.K. 8th Report, App. II, 189 sq.; cf. Hall, *Studies, loc. cit.*, and Andrews, *Guide*, Vol. I, p. 268.

<sup>3</sup> Some of these are no longer in official custody; e.g. MSS. Harl. (cf. D.K. 30th Report, pp. 21, 24).

## A. PRIVY SEAL, WRITS, LETTERS, AND BILLS.

Some specimens of early missives will be found in the Chancery and Exchequer series of "Warrants for the issue of the Great Seal". Later specimens have been bound up as a series of Warrants amongst the papers of the Secretary of State or preserved as vouchers amongst the Exchequer Records. Many bundles of original Writs of Privy Seal, some of which are of a missive nature, are preserved amongst the records of the Courts of the Palatinate and Duchy of Lancaster and of the Principality of Wales. Drafts frequently occur amongst the State Papers Domestic.

Although the official inrolment of Writs and Letters under the Smaller Seals cannot be clearly traced in the mediæval period,<sup>1</sup> many interesting fiscal writs will be found on the Memoranda Rolls of the Exchequer. A still larger series of Writs or Letters is entered in the "Privy Seal Books" of the Exchequer (Pells' and Auditors' Records). In the Declared Accounts of the Pipe and Audit Office full extracts are frequently inrolled of the Privy Seal which was the authority for payment. Abstracts and copies will be found in the *Liber Memorandorum Camerarii*.<sup>2</sup>

**Classified List of Privy Seal, Writs, and Letters, etc.**

(a) Writs and Letters for Administrative Purposes.

*Originals.*

Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (Series I), (H. III—R. III).<sup>3</sup>

Exchequer (R.)—Privy Seals and Warrants for issue (H. III—W. IV).<sup>3</sup>

Exchequer (K.R.)—Accounts (*passim*).

Exchequer (T.R.)—(Letters Patent and) Privy Seals for loans (H. VII—C. I); Diplomatic Documents (H. I—J. I); Specimens of Privy Seals (various dates).

<sup>1</sup> But many specimens of semi-official registers have survived, pointing to a practice of inrolment in book form, as abroad.

<sup>2</sup> Ed. Palgrave (Record Commission).

<sup>3</sup> This series includes some administrative types, but these are relatively rare.

Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books (No. 31).

Exchequer—Miscellanea<sup>1</sup> (*passim*).

*Inrolments.*

Exchequer (R.)—Patent and Privy Seal Books (Pells' and Auditors') Various Series (1485-1834); Posting Books (Pells'), (1597-1834); Books of Payment by Royal Warrant (1559-1586).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Accounts (*passim*); Black Book of the Exchequer (13-18 C.).

Exchequer (K.R. and L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls (*passim*).

Exchequer (T.R.)—Miscellaneous Books (Nos. 144, 274, 275).

Exchequer and Audit Department—Pipe and Audit Office Declared Accounts (H. VII—G. IV).

State Papers Domestic—Warrant Books and Entry Books (*passim*).  
Departmental Records<sup>2</sup> (*passim*).

(b) Warrants for the Great Seal.

*Originals.*

Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (H. III—Vict.): Diplomatic Documents (*passim*).

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Customers' Patents (G. I—G. III).

B. SIGNET LETTERS AND BILLS.

The Signet was rarely used before the reign of Edward III. It was affixed to Letters Missive for general administrative purposes, and to Letters or Warrants for the issue of instruments under the Great Seal. Some Missive Letters appear among the Warrants on the Chancery Files. In the Privy Signet Bill another type of Warrant is seen which afterwards assumed a conventional form as the authority for issuing the Privy Seal. It has sometimes been assumed that the Signet Bills have not been preserved in official custody since the Restoration; but it would seem that from the year 1765 to 1885 the Signet Bills, or most of them, were preserved in the Privy Seal Office, whence they were recently

<sup>1</sup> All three Series: for Warrants to repay loans under Privy Seals, see Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* p. 157.

<sup>2</sup> The best collection will be found amongst the Lord Chamberlain's Records (H. VII—W. IV). Others occur amongst the Ordnance and Navy Board Records.

transferred to the Public Record Office. Those dating between the reigns of Henry VIII and Charles I were already in the Public Record Office, and it is possible that the Bills for the period prior to 1765 have perished, with the exception of such as may survive in public or private collections.<sup>1</sup>

It has been found impracticable to distinguish here between the executive and departmental uses of the Signet. During the mediæval period the former is occasionally illustrated by Warrants for the Great Seal on the Chancery Files and also amongst the Exchequer Warrants for Issues. The only distinct or considerable series of such Signet Letters, preserved in official custody, relates to the transaction of business between the English Government and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

### Classified List of Signet Letters and Bills.

#### *Originals.*

Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (H. III—Vict.).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Warrants for the Privy Seal (H. IV—C. I).

Exchequer (R.)—Privy Seals and Warrants for Issues (H. III—W. IV).<sup>3</sup>

Privy Seal Office—Signet Bills (1765-1885).

#### *Inrolments.*

Signet Office Letter Books (1627-1764).

### C. SIGN MANUAL WARRANTS AND SIGNED BILLS.

The use of the Sign Manual or the royal signature appended to a document to give it validity or official currency did not obtain in this country before the latter part of the 14th century. A petition or bill, when thus initialled, became an effectual warrant for the Great Seal, and in the later practice this was the recognized stage

<sup>1</sup> *cf.* Series of Signets addressed to the Duke of Newcastle, as Lord Privy Seal, in the reign of Anne, 30th Report, Appx. p. 360.

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* below, p. 41.

<sup>3</sup> A few Signets may be found here. See also below (3).

of the departmental procedure for the issue of the Great Seal.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the Sign Manual Warrant was largely employed for administrative business and in this connexion it was used for a great variety of purposes.<sup>2</sup>

These instruments are scattered amongst several classes of records and MSS. and are not classified or described as a distinct group. The greatest number of executive Warrants are entered in the Warrant Books of the Secretaries of State. Some are to be found also amongst the records of the Admiralty, War Office, and other Departments (Commissions, etc.).

### Classified List of Sign Manual Warrants and Signed Bills.

#### (a) Warrants for Administrative Purposes.

##### *Originals.*

Chancery—Ancient Correspondence (*passim*).

Exchequer (R.)—Privy Seals and Warrants for Issues (H. III—W. IV);  
Warrants, original (1794-1834).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Warrants for the Privy Seal (H. IV—C. I).

Exchequer—Miscellanea<sup>3</sup> (*passim*).

State Papers Domestic—(Eliz.—J. I).<sup>4</sup>

Departmental Records (*passim*).<sup>5</sup>

##### *Inrolments.*

Exchequer (R.)—Auditors' Warrant Books (1626-1790).

Land Revenue Record Office—Miscellaneous Books (1609→).

State Papers Domestic—Warrant Books (1584-1781).<sup>6</sup>

Departmental Records—Warrant Books.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Above, p. 21, n. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Hall, *Studies*, p. 333, and *Formula Book*, Part I, p. 96 sq.

<sup>3</sup> Including the Miscellanea of the several departments of the Exchequer.

<sup>4</sup> Originals mounted in books; some are Warrants for the Seal.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p. 23, n. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Continued down to modern times in the Home Office Records.

<sup>7</sup> e.g. the Records of the Crown Office (House of Lords), Lord Chamberlain's and Lord Steward's Departments, the Home Office, Admiralty, War Office and Treasury Records.

## (b) Warrants for the Great Seal.

*Originals.*

- Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (H. IV—C. II).  
 State Papers Domestic—Sign Manual Warrants (Eliz.—C. I).  
 Signet Office—King's Bills (1661-1851).  
 Duchy of Lancaster—Miscellanea (*passim*).  
 Palatinate of Chester—Miscellanea (*passim*).

*Subsidiary Documents.*

- Privy Seal Office—Docquet Books (1571-1884);<sup>1</sup> Fee Books (17-19 C.); Miscellaneous Correspondence (18-19 C.).  
 Signet Office—Docquet Books (1584-1821); Fee Books (1711-1821).<sup>2</sup>

### 3. INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE SEALS OF THE PALATINATE COURTS<sup>3</sup> AND SPECIAL JURISDICTIONS.

#### A. RECORDS OF PALATINE JURISDICTIONS.

The various diplomatic instruments issued under the Seals of the Principality of Wales, the ancient Palatinates, the Royal Duchies, and the special tribunals that were erected, chiefly during the Tudor period, with jurisdiction independent of the Chancery or Courts of Common Law, have been briefly noticed in the following lists. For an account of the jurisdiction and proceedings of these Courts, *see* below, III (6).

It was thought desirable to place the Palatinate records in a separate class, since the jurisdictions from which they emanate were mostly administered by a distinct official establishment, including the use of a Seal which was not merely a departmental variant of the Seals of the Chancery and Courts of Common Law. As noted

<sup>1</sup> The Harleian collection covers the period, 1634-1711.

<sup>2</sup> Accounts of Fees will also be found amongst the State Papers Domestic, Various, the Signet Office being regarded as a branch department under the Secretaries of State.

<sup>3</sup> Owing to the composite nature of the Palatinate Inrolments, instruments under various Seals are entered on the same rolls. The lesser Seals of the Palatinates are not usually distinguished from the English Seals, especially when they were in the hands of the Crown. For the Bishopric of Ely, *see* below, pp. 78 and 178.



above (1 and 2), instruments under the latter Seals are occasionally found in these collections.<sup>1</sup>

### Classified List of Palatinate Instruments, etc.

#### (a) Principality of Wales.

##### *Originals.*

Miscellanea<sup>2</sup> (16-18 C.).

##### *Inrolments.*

Plea Rolls<sup>3</sup> (1543-1830).

##### *Subsidiary Documents.*

Prothonotaries' Papers (16-17 C.); Miscellanea (16-19 C.).

#### (b) Duchy of Cornwall.<sup>4</sup>

##### *Originals.*

Exchequer (Augm. O.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>5</sup> 69-75, 278-280;  
Miscellaneous Accounts and Papers (E. III—C. II).

##### *Inrolments.*

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Miscellaneous Books, Vols. 57 and 280<sup>6</sup>;  
Council Book of the Duchy of Cornwall.

#### (c) Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>7</sup>

##### *Originals.*

Royal Charters<sup>8</sup> (11-16 C.); Ancient Charters and Grants<sup>8</sup> (12 C.—);  
Special Commissions and Returns (Eliz.—G. III.); Miscellanea  
(*passim*); Warrants for issue of the Palatinate Seal (H. VII—  
G. IV).

##### *Inrolments.*

Chancery Inrolments (1354-1509); Miscellanea Books (J.—G. II).

##### *Subsidiary Documents.*

Miscellanea.

<sup>1</sup> For a description of the respective Seals, see British Museum, Catalogue of Seals, Vol. I, and Declared Accounts, Pipe Office, No. 2890.

<sup>2</sup> Specimens of original (Chancery) and select judicial writs, precepts for sessions, letters of Inspeximus, etc.; *cf.* above, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Writs inrolled or recited.

<sup>4</sup> See also 1800 Report, p. 81; 1914 Report, App., p. 173, and below, p. 77.

<sup>5</sup> Acquittances and Council Book.

<sup>6</sup> Charters.

<sup>7</sup> Some records are still retained at the Duchy Office. Some instruments under the Duchy Seal are amongst the Palatinate records, and *vice versa*; *cf.* p. 28, n. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Most of these, however, are under the English Seal.

(d) Palatinate of Lancaster.<sup>1</sup>*Originals.*

Miscellanea ; Original and Judicial writs (17 H. 6→) ; Warrants (R. II—H. VII).

*Inrolments.*

Chancery Inrolments (1380-1506).

*Subsidiary Documents.*

Chancery, Warrants for the Great Seal (Ser. I) ; Miscellanea (*passim*), (17-19 C.).

(e) Palatinate of Durham.<sup>2</sup>*Originals.*

Cursitors' Records, Miscellanea,<sup>2</sup> (E. VI—Vict.).

*Inrolments.*

Cursitors' Records, Chancery Inrolments (1333-1836) ; Kellawe's Register (1311-1316).

*Subsidiary Documents.*

Cursor's and Prothonotaries' Records ; Miscellanea (*passim*).

(f) Palatinate of Chester.<sup>3</sup>*Originals.*

Privy Seals and Warrants<sup>4</sup> (E. III—C. I) ; Miscellanea ; specimens of Writs and Warrants (*passim*).

*Inrolments.*

Recognizance Rolls<sup>5</sup> (1 E. II—1 W. IV).

Exchequer T.R.—Miscellaneous Books,<sup>5</sup> 279.

*Subsidiary Documents.*

Writ Book (C. I—C. II) ; Recognizance Rolls (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> For records not transferred from the Palatinate, *see* 1914 Report, Appx., p. 141, and 1919 Report, p. 109.

<sup>2</sup> *See* D.K., 16th Report, App., p. 44 *sq.*

<sup>3</sup> For certain purposes, and during a certain period, the county of Flint has been officially included in the Palatinate of Chester. Formerly (1839-1908), records relating to Flint and Chester were classified amongst Welsh Records. As to the Seal of this Circuit, *cf.* 1912 Report, App., p. 156, and P.R.O. Lists and Indexes, Vol. xl, p. iii.

<sup>4</sup> Including writs and ordinances under the Seals of the Prince of Wales. Original instruments under the Chester Seals were formerly preserved amongst "Original Letters Patent," now distributed.

<sup>5</sup> Letters and Writs may be under the Palatinate Seals or under the Great Seal and Privy Seals.

(g) The Honour of Peveril.<sup>1</sup>*Originals.*

## Specimens of Writs.

## B. COURTS OF SPECIAL JURISDICTION.

As mentioned in the prefatory note (above, p. 26), the courts included under this title are for the most part abolished or extinct, and a brief account of their history and judicial procedure is given in a later Section.<sup>2</sup> As in the case of the Palatinate Records, however, a certain number of diplomatic documents may be found in various inrolments or precedent books and also among the subsidiary judicial proceedings. With the exception of the Admiralty Court, impressions of the distinctive seals are rarely found and their use is obscure. Moreover, four of these courts (Augmentations, Surveyors, Wards and Liveries, and First Fruits) became practically merged in the procedure of the Exchequer soon after their institution. In later times the writs, warrants, and other instruments under seal, have been separated from the proceedings.

**Classified List of Instruments connected with Courts  
of Special Jurisdiction.**

(a) High Court of Admiralty.<sup>3</sup>*Originals.*

Warrants, etc. (1515-1760); Letters of Marque, etc. (1549→); Miscellaneous (1562→).

<sup>1</sup> Though included in the official *Guide* with other special royal jurisdictions, this was practically a private franchise under a stewardship. Only a few modern writs have survived.

<sup>2</sup> Below, Section III, No. 6. No reference has been made here to records of the Palace Courts, Courts Martial, Court of High Commission, Council of the North, or of the Council of the West (Wales and Marches), since no diplomatic documents of any special interest are preserved in official custody. As to the status of the Ecclesiastical Courts, *see* below, pp. 81, 164.

<sup>3</sup> There is only a summary manuscript list of these records. As to the Seal, *see* Selden Society, "Pleas in Admiralty Court" (ed. R. G. Marsden), Vol. I.

## (b) High Court of Delegates.

*Originals.*

Miscellanea (1536→).

## (c) Court of Requests.

*Originals.*

Proceedings (H. VII—C. I).

*Inrolments.*

Miscellaneous Books (H. VIII—J. I).

## (d) Court of Star Chamber.

*Originals.*

Proceedings (H. VII—C. I).

## (e) Court of Wards and Liveries.

*Originals.*Miscellaneous Proceedings (*passim*).*Inrolments.*Miscellaneous Books<sup>1</sup> (*passim*).*Subsidiary Documents.*Miscellaneous (*passim*).(f) Court of Augmentations.<sup>2</sup>*Originals.*

Leases (counter parts) (H. VIII—J. I); Original Letters Patent (Ancient Deeds (B)).

*Inrolments.*Miscellaneous Books (*passim*); Inrolments, etc., of Leases (H. VIII—Eliz.).*Subsidiary Documents.*Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).

## (g) Court of First Fruits and Tenths.

*Originals.*

Writs and Miscellanea; Process Books, Vol. I (H. VIII).

<sup>1</sup> Including those of the Exchequer and Augmentation Office as well as the Court of Wards, etc., itself.

<sup>2</sup> Including the Court of General Surveyors and some modern records of the Land Revenue Department.

#### 4. INSTRUMENTS UNDER PRIVATE SEALS INROLLED OR DEPOSITED IN ARCHIVES.

Original title-deeds have been deposited in the Archives in various ways. Some refer to property forfeited (Greenwich Hospital Records) or escheated to the Crown (Treasury Solicitors' Records), or acquired by purchase or exchange or composition (Office of Works and Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Records); others have been put in as exhibits in the course of litigation or have been ordered to be deposited for the information of the Courts.<sup>1</sup> An immense number of deeds was acquired at the Dissolution of the Monasteries (Augmentation Office Series). Another very large collection among the Chancery Masters' Documents, is under arrangement, and almost as many more (though, for the most part of a more recent date) might be found amongst the Judicial and Departmental Records not yet transferred to the Public Record Office, or open to public inspection. In a few cases, deeds of peculiar importance have been deposited by official arrangement for safe custody.

Another cause of the preservation of private deeds in official custody has been the desire of the parties to perpetuate the tenor of certain deeds by means of formal inrolment. This might be effected either by a judicial process, as in the case of a Final Concord, or by inrolment in the records of the Courts.<sup>2</sup> Again, deeds might be inrolled for the special information of the Departments concerned, especially the Exchequer; and many such will be found in official precedent books.

<sup>1</sup> These are now classified as follows : Series A. Exchequer (T. of R.); B. Exchequer (Augmentation Office); C. Chancery; D. Exchequer (K.R.); E. Land Revenue; F. Wales (Chester); G. Durham; H. Lancaster (Palatinate); L. Lancaster (Duchy); P. Exchequer (L.T.R.).

<sup>2</sup> In later times the chief medium of such inrolments was the Chancery Close Roll, *e.g.* since 5 Ric. II, c. 8.

In some cases deeds were inrolled as an official precaution or in accordance with statutory or official direction. In this way many thousands of bonds and acknowledgments, including the Jewish "Starrs," have been inrolled. There are also numerous inrolments of deeds concerning the possessions or interests of the Crown amongst the Miscellaneous books and Plea Rolls of the Chancery, Exchequer, and King's Bench.

By the Act of 27 Henry VIII, c. 16, Deeds of Bargain and Sale of freehold estate were to be inrolled within six months. The system of permissive inrolments was still further extended in the 17th and 18th centuries by the establishment of local Registries of Deeds for the Fen District (Bedford Level) and the counties of Yorkshire and Middlesex. The last of these has now been amalgamated with the Land Registry Office.

Other classes of deeds are inrolled in some of the statutory registries of modern date.<sup>1</sup>

A diplomatic classification of Private Deeds will be found in printed works of reference,<sup>2</sup> but in the archives they are not classified according to their form.

### **Classified List of Deeds Inrolled or Deposited in Archives.<sup>3</sup>**

#### *Originals.*

Chancery<sup>4</sup>—Miscellanea, Transcripts of Deeds, etc. (E. I—E. III).

Exchequer<sup>4</sup>—Miscellanea, of the.<sup>5</sup>

Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books (Nos. 31-54).

Court of Wards and Liveries—Deeds, Charters, and Evidences (E. I—C. I).

<sup>1</sup> No special mention need be made here of the Registries of Recognizances under the Statute of Merchants and Statute of the Staple, since these were local repositories.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Madox, *Formulare Anglicanum* and H. Hall, *Studies*, p. 225.

<sup>3</sup> The titles of judicial records containing only occasional inrolments of deeds are omitted here, including various series of Chancery inrolments.

<sup>4</sup> See also Special Collections (Ancient Deeds).

<sup>5</sup> Including the several departments of the Exchequer.

Duchy of Lancaster—Ancient Deeds and Charters; Cartæ Miscellanæ; Security Bonds (H. VIII—G. I); Miscellanea (Bdles. 1-3).

Palatinate of Chester—Ancient Deeds (F).

Palatinate of Durham—Ancient Deeds (G).

Special Collections—Ancient Deeds (Series A.-P.).<sup>1</sup>

State Papers Domestic (*passim*).

State Papers Supplementary (*passim*).

Departmental Records <sup>2</sup> (*passim*).

### *Inrolments.*<sup>3</sup>

Chancery—Chancery Inrolments; <sup>4</sup> Miscellanea of the Chancery.

Exchequer (R.)—Pells' and Auditors' Assignment Books (1622-1834).

Exchequer—Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).

Land Revenue Records—Inrolment Books of Deeds (H. VIII→);

Miscellaneous Books (H. VIII—Eliz.).

Duchy of Lancaster—Miscellaneous Books.

Palatinate of Chester—Recognizance Rolls; Plea Rolls.

Palatinate of Durham—Cursitors' Records; Plea Rolls.

## 5. DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUMENTS.

For the purpose of any diplomatic description of the Public Records, notice must be taken of an extensive and varied class of documents which, are analogous to Writs and Letters under the Great and Smaller Seals, and otherwise serve as warrants for the administration of the Royal Household or the Public Service.

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 31 (*n.*).

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Admiralty, Greenwich Hospital, Customs and Excise, H.M. Office of Works, etc., Ecclesiastical Commission, Office of H.M. Woods, etc., Queen Anne's Bounty, Charity Commission, Treasury, War Office, a large proportion of which is not yet transferred to the Public Record Office.

<sup>3</sup> For records containing early inrolments of private deeds, *see* above (p. 32). After a certain date, such Deeds as Memorials of Annuities, Specifications, etc., of Patents, Recognizances, etc., are separately entered and indexed. Private instruments are sometimes entered in Departmental Records but the practice was quite exceptional.

<sup>4</sup> Recited or confirmed in Royal Charters and Confirmations or specially inrolled on the later Close Rolls. Even some colonial grants are entered in the 18th century Close Rolls.

These are the Bills, Grants, Warrants, Commissions, Orders, Instructions, Licenses, Dispensations, Passes, Caveats, Certificates, etc., issued under the official or departmental seals of royal officers or Public Departments, both during the mediæval period and in later times.

In the first place it should be noted that the work now performed by various Government Departments was carried out during the mediæval period, and later, either by the Chancery and the King's Courts, or by local officers variously appointed,<sup>1</sup> or again by officials of the King's Household.

Although no complete list of mediæval offices has yet been compiled, it is well known that some of these local offices were of an occasional or special nature, as for instance, the supervision of local passes in connexion with the Statutes of Labourers. Others like the offices of Sheriff and Coroner still survive, and to these may be added a large number of local authorities or ministers of the Crown whose functions are well known, though now obsolete. On the other hand, the number of Public Departments has been infinitely multiplied in modern times, and we have already seen that the King's Court had been supplemented before the middle of the 16th century by a number of adventitious tribunals.

One means of estimating the official status of a court or department or individual ministry would be the recorded cost of preparing a seal of office. Such records are occasionally found from the 15th century onwards in connection with the accounts of the engraver of the seals,<sup>2</sup> and we know that, in some cases at least, the

<sup>1</sup> See below, Part II (2) and (7).

<sup>2</sup> Numerous examples of such official seals have survived (*see* Birch, *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of MSS. in the British Museum*, I, 105 *sq.* and Vol. II, *passim*), and the petition of Henry the Fourth's engraver, printed in *Rot. Parl.*, IV, 312; *cf.* 1914 Report, App. (II), p. 190.



official seal was provided by the Crown.<sup>1</sup> It is probable, however, that in many cases the King's officer used his personal or armorial seal; but in later times instruments were usually authenticated by official signatures and not by seals, which were relegated to the cover of the missive and by degrees became an official embellishment in shape of an official crest or stamp.

The classes of Departmental Instruments mentioned below are only given as types. A complete enumeration would be impracticable on the score of space. Moreover, an extensive rearrangement of most of these collections had been in progress during the last thirty years.

#### **A. Instruments Issued by Officers of the King's Household.<sup>2</sup>**

##### *Originals.*

Exchequer (R.)—Wardrobe Debentures (Ed. I—III).

Chancery—Warrants for the Great Seal (Ser. I) (15th C.).

##### *Inrolments.*

Lord Chamberlain's Department—Warrants (1628-1828).

Lord Steward's Department—Miscellaneous Books (17-18 C.).

Exchequer (R.)—Liber Memorandorum (14-16 C.).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Accounts (13-17 C.).

#### **B. Instruments Issued by Local Administrative Officers.<sup>3</sup>**

##### *Originals.*

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Certificates various (J. I—G. III).

Chancery Files—Statute Merchant and Staple Certificates, etc. (E. I—C. I).

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* the "Coket" seal supplied to Customs officers.

<sup>2</sup> Several officers connected with the Royal Household who have exercised a departmental authority, *e.g.* Keeper of the Wardrobe, Masters of the Swans, Butler, Treasurer of the Household, Lord Steward and Lord Chamberlain of the Household, Master of the Horse, Coroner of the Household and Keeper of the Jewel House. With the exception of the Lord Steward's and Lord Chamberlain's Departments, few records have survived. Some have not yet been transferred according to the Second Report of Public Records Commission (Vol. II, Part II, p. 173).

<sup>3</sup> These include certificates and awards, assessments, or other proceedings of Commissioners of Sewers and Taxes, of the officers who

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Statute Staple, Recognizances, etc. (J. I—G. III).  
Chancery (Rolls, Chapel Series)—Pleadings on Statute Staple, Recognizances, etc. (H. VIII—Anne).

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Sacrament Certificates (1673-1789).

Chancery Miscellanea—Special Commissions (E. I—J. I).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Certificates of Residence (Eliz.—J. I); Special Commissions (Eliz.—Vict.); Inventories of Church goods (E. VI); Original Letters Patent (Cokets), (E. I—III); Port Books and Coast Bonds (H. VI—C. II);<sup>1</sup> Ulnage, Accounts, etc. (E. III—J. I).

Exchequer (R.)—Miscellanea Blood Money Certificates (1649-1800).<sup>2</sup>  
State Papers Domestic (*passim*).

Exchequer (A.O.)—Certificates of Colleges and Chantries (H. VIII—E. VI).

King's Bench (Cr. Side)—Sacrament Certificates<sup>3</sup> (1728-1828).

State Papers Domestic—(16-18 C.), (*passim*).

#### *Inrolments.*

Lord Chamberlain's Records—Rolls, Entry Books, and Indexes of Statute Staple Recognizances (24 H. VIII—15 G. III).<sup>4</sup>

#### *Subsidiary Proceedings.*

Chancery (Crown Office)—Petitions and Fiats for Commissioners of Sewers (16-19 C.).

executed the provisions of the Statutes of Merchants (1285), the Staple (1351), and the Test Act (1673). In another aspect the proceedings of the Commissioners of Sewers are judicial records. Other well known examples of this class are the Certificates of Customers and Ulnagers. The administrative orders and Warrants of Justices of the Peace and Coroners are preserved as Local Records by the Clerks of the Peace, but those of Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and some other local officers have not survived as a separate series, though these officers had official seals and transacted important business. (*Cf. Stonor Papers* (R. Hist. Soc.), Vol. I, *passim*.) A delegated authority was exercised by colonial governors and consuls.

<sup>1</sup> See 1912 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 45-51.

<sup>2</sup> A series of very interesting Certificates (or Bills), known as "Sheriffs' Cravings".

<sup>3</sup> A very large number of Sacrament Certificates exist in various custodies, public and private, and many more have been destroyed.

<sup>4</sup> These are really the archives of the statutory registry of the Staple at Westminster. The pleadings, hereon, among the Chancery, Common Law Records are preserved in the three series mentioned above. The Statute Staple archives in question constitute a collection of 183 Rolls and 35 volumes of Entry Books and Indexes.

**C. Instruments Issued by Official Departments.<sup>1</sup>***(a) Secretaries of States' Departments.*

S.P. Dom.<sup>2</sup> (16-18 C.); S.P. Dom. various (16-18 C.); S.P. Dom. Borders (16 C.); S.P. Dom. Channel Islands (17-18 C.); S.P. Dom. Regencies (18 C.); S.P. Dom. Ireland (16-18 C.); S.P. Dom. Scotland (17-18 C.); S.P. For. (gen. ser.), (16-18 C.); F.O. Correspondence (1781→); C.O. Records (17-19 C.); H.O. Records (1781→).

W.O. Records<sup>3</sup>—Marching Orders (1683→); Ordnance Warrants (1597→); Orders (1744→).

*(b) Other Public Offices.**Originals.*

Treasury Records—Papers (16-19 C.).

Treasury (E. of R.)—Royal and Treasury Warrants (1547-1834).<sup>4</sup>

Admiralty Records—Admiralty and Navy Board Inletters<sup>5</sup> (1660-1832).

*Inrolments.*

Treasury (E. of R.)<sup>6</sup>—Auditors' Warrant Books (1626-1790); Pells' Warrant Books (1617-1790).

Land Revenue Records<sup>7</sup>—Enrolment Books of Grants, Leases, and Warrants (28 H. VIII—1832).

<sup>1</sup> Information as to the outstanding records of the Public Departments will be found in the First and Second Reports of the Public Records Commission and Appendices thereto.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Warrants, Passes (or Protections), Caveats, and Certificates, including Entry Books and Warrant Books. For the classification of these instruments, see Hall, *Studies*, pp. 332-334, and *Formula Book*, Part I, Nos. 178, 179, 182, 189, 192-194. Besides the above, many instruments of various forms have been preserved here. The Series of Letters and Papers, Henry VIII, is included here.

<sup>3</sup> Down to 1782 the Home Department had control of military affairs and this continued to be exercised till a recent date in respect of the auxiliary forces.

<sup>4</sup> For some later records preserved (till recently) at the Exchequer and Audit Office, see 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 236-237.

<sup>5</sup> Before 1673 these are included amongst the State Papers Domestic.

<sup>6</sup> The records of the abolished departments of the Exchequer were in the charge of the Comptroller General of the Exchequer for many years. They have now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

<sup>7</sup> Some records have not yet been transferred to the Record Office including those in local custody.

- Treasury<sup>1</sup>—Outletters and Miscellanea (1667→); Warrants (1660→); Fund Books (Warrants), (1797→); Miscellanea (1664-1800).  
 Admiralty Records,<sup>2</sup> Secretary's Department—Orders and Instructions (1665→); Commission and Warrant Books (1695→); Protections and Passes (1683→).  
 Accountant General's Department — Head Money Vouchers (1710→).  
 Navy Board—Orders (1658→); Passing Certificates (1691-1848).  
 Medical Department—(Cartels for prisoners of war), (18 C.).  
 Controller of Navy—Warrants (1714-1781).  
 Greenwich Hospital—Orders and Warrants (18-19 C.).

## 6. OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE DEPOSITED IN ARCHIVES.

The modern arrangement of this vast class of records is, to some extent, based upon the artificial systems of classification employed by 17th and 18th century archivists.<sup>3</sup> The result of this proprietary system of classification has been the duplication of titles and the dispersal of related documents. At the same time it has been the practice to file with the State Papers many incongruous documents, such as originals or drafts of Charters, Letters Patent, Sign Manual Warrants, etc. These have been relegated here to their proper position. Another large class of formal documents, such as Warrants and Signet Letters, procured by the Secretary of State, has been dealt with above under the heading of Departmental Instruments. Ministerial and Judicial Proceedings, which are actually to be found amongst this correspondence, have been noted in those Sections. Finally, an

<sup>1</sup> For details of the respective series of Treasury Records, *see* the official list.

<sup>2</sup> *See* also the records in the Admiralty Library mentioned in the 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 227 *sq.* For Summary Lists of, and Reports on, the Admiralty, War Office, Customs, Woods and Forests, and other departmental collections not yet transferred to the Public Record Office, *see* 1912 and 1914 Reports, Appx. (II).

<sup>3</sup> For a description of these, *see* Hall, *Studies*, Part I, Appendices.

attempt has been made to indicate the character of the large mass of extraneous documents casually acquired by the Secretariats and Departments, amongst which is included a considerable quantity of unofficial correspondence.

The so-called Ancient Correspondence of the mediæval period includes Departmental as well as Royal Letters. This series is continued by the well-known State Papers, which comprise the records of the Secretaries of State, as opposed to those of the Commissions or Boards, Committees and other Government Departments. Of the records of the five modern Secretaries of State, only those concerned with Home, Foreign, and Colonial affairs are usually included under the title of State Papers. The Secretary for War was represented down to 1855 by the Colonial Secretary, and, moreover, a large portion of the military records were received from the old Board of Ordnance. The position of the India Office Records is in doubt, since these might be regarded as being under the control of the Indian rather than of the British Government.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, many Departmental Records have been actually incorporated with these Secretarial State Papers, either through the dominating position of the Secretariat, or as the result of earlier official schemes which included all sorts of non-related records within the scope of the State Paper Calendars in order to enhance the importance of a particular series of official publications. The Departmental Records in question consist chiefly of Naval Papers in the earlier period, but records of the War Office, Council Office, Post Office, and other Departments are included in official lists and Calendars for a later period.

A classified list of the more important documents referred to will be found below.

<sup>1</sup> See 1914 Report, p. 22.

A few references have been given here to the miscellaneous correspondence occasionally found even in judicial records, and especially amongst the Exchequer and Chancery Records during the 16th and 17th centuries.<sup>1</sup> There is also a large quantity of semi-official and departmental correspondence preserved in the Public Record Office relating to the administration of the Office, and this will eventually form part of the Departmental Records at large.<sup>2</sup>

### Classified List of Official Correspondence.

#### A. MEDIÆVAL SERIES.

##### (a) Royal Letters.

##### *Originals.*

Chancery—Ancient Correspondence (13-15 C.).<sup>3</sup>

Exchequer (T.R.)—Diplomatic Documents (13-15 C.).<sup>4</sup>

Exchequer (K.R.)—Ecclesiastical Documents (13 C.).

##### *Inrolments.*

Chancery—Patent Rolls (13-15 C.); Close Rolls (13-15 C.).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Miscellaneous Books, No. 2 (13 C.).<sup>5</sup>

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Registrum Munimentorum (13 C.)<sup>6</sup>; Liber Memorandorum Camerarii (14-15 C.)<sup>7</sup>; Miscellaneous Books (*passim*); (Transcripts of Letters of the Black Prince), (1346-7).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Correspondence may also be found amongst the records of the Palatine Courts and Special Jurisdictions. For specimens, see Hall, *Antiquities and Curiosities of the Exchequer*, and the official lists of Exchequer Miscellanea.

<sup>2</sup> For indications of its nature, see D.K. Reports (*passim*); the 1912 Report, Appx. (VIII), and Public Record Office, *Schedules*, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> From the Chancery Files, etc. Some of these are exhibited in the Public Record Office Museum.

<sup>4</sup> Mostly foreign letters.

<sup>5</sup> Correspondence between Henry III and the Emperor Frederic II, etc. Foreign Letters (14-15 C.) are also entered in the Laing MS. 313, now in the University Library at Edinburgh.

<sup>6</sup> Liber A and B, an important source.

<sup>7</sup> Titles of documents only.

<sup>8</sup> Other letters of this prince are preserved in the Duchy of Cornwall Office; cf. Exch. T.R. Miscellaneous Books, Nos. 278-280.

*(b) Departmental Correspondence.**Originals.*

Special Collections—Ancient Correspondence (13-15 C.)<sup>1</sup>; Ancient Petitions (13-15 C.).

Duchy of Lancaster—Ancient Correspondence, etc. (13-15 C.).

Chancery—Miscellanea (13-15 C.); Warrants for the Great Seal (Series I), (13-15 C.).

Exchequer—Miscellanea (13-15 C.).

*Inrolments.*

Chancery Enrolments (13-15 C.).

*(c) Private Correspondence (deposited).**Originals.*

Special Collections—Ancient Correspondence (13-15 C.)<sup>2</sup>

Chancery—Miscellanea.<sup>3</sup>

## B. MODERN SERIES.

*(a) Royal Letters.**Originals.*

S.P. Dom. (1509-1780).

S.P. (Ireland), (1547→).

S.P. (Scotland), (1547-1603).

S.P. (Foreign), (1547-1780).<sup>4</sup>

F.O. Records (1781-1834).

India Office Records (1596-1858).

Chatham Papers (2nd Series), Vols. 103-106, 228-230, 364 (and a few scattered letters in other volumes).

*Inrolments.*

S.P. Ireland, King's Letter Books (1681-1776).

S.P. For., Royal Letters (1580-1780).

Foreign Entry Books, King's Letter Books (1714-72).

F.O. King's Letters (1714-1846).

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Vols. 6-10, 22, 24, the correspondence of the Chancellor.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the "Stonor Papers," the "Cely Papers," etc.

<sup>3</sup> Under arrangement, but containing correspondence supplementing the Ancient Correspondence. Both series (like the "Supplementary State Papers") include documents which were "exhibits" in the Court of Chancery.

<sup>4</sup> From 1689 Royal Letters form a distinct class, but being devoted to the exchange of courtesies, they are less interesting than the general correspondence.

F.O. Miscellaneous (Series I), 491-501 (1781-1834).  
India Office Records (17 C.→).

A few copies of Royal Letters are to be found in the Manchester Papers and Shaftesbury Papers.

(b) Secretarial Correspondence.

*Originals.*<sup>1</sup>

Exchequer of Receipt—Thorpe's Exchequer Papers (16-17 C.)<sup>2</sup> ;  
Miscellanea (16-17 C.).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Miscellaneous Books, 121, 122, etc. (16 C.).

Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books, 472-478 (*passim*), (16 C.).

Letters and Papers, Henry VIII (1509-47).<sup>3</sup>

S.P. Dom.<sup>4</sup> (1547-1780).

Home Office Records (1780→).

S.P. Foreign (1547-1780).

Foreign Office Records (1781→).

Colonial Office Records (1574→).

State Papers, Supplementary (16-18 C.).

State Papers, Miscellaneous (17-18 C.).

*Inrolments.*<sup>5</sup>

S. P. Dom.—Entry Books and Letter Books (16-18 C.).

Home Office Records—Entry Books and Letter Books (18-19 C.).

S.P. Foreign—Entry Books and Letter Books (16-18 C.).

Foreign Office Records—Entry Books and Letter Books (18-19 C.).

Colonial Office Records—Entry Books and Letter Books (17-19 C.).

<sup>1</sup> These include Letters Received (or Inletters) of various kinds (sometimes technically described as Holographs, Signed Letters, Duplicates, Private, Separate, Confidential, Secret, Newsletters, Treaty Papers, etc.), together with inclosures and drafts of replies, etc. It has been pointed out elsewhere that the subject-matter cannot be ascertained from the official lists. For the contents and classification, see Hall, *Studies*, pp. 60-70, and Appendices.

<sup>2</sup> These have been now partly distributed into other series.

<sup>3</sup> These include many administrative and judicial records.

<sup>4</sup> Including "S.P. Scotland," "S.P. Ireland," "S.P. Borders," "S.P. Channel Islands" and "Regencies".

<sup>5</sup> As previously mentioned, there is no consistent classification of these series. The normal inrolment is an Entry Book of Letters both received and issued, or a Letter Book of Letters issued only. For Treaties and Treaty Papers, see above, pp. 13-14.



(c) Departmental Correspondence.<sup>1</sup>*Originals.*

Inletters<sup>2</sup>; Papers<sup>3</sup>; Miscellanea; Registers<sup>4</sup>; Accounts.<sup>5</sup>

*Inrolments.*

Outletters<sup>6</sup>; Entry Books; Indexes<sup>7</sup>; Registers<sup>8</sup>; Accounts.<sup>8</sup>

(d) Documents Subsidiary to Secretarial and Departmental Correspondence.<sup>9</sup>

Drafts, Cyphers, Memoranda, Notes, Minutes, Journals, Registers, Précis Books, Indexes, Diaries, Precedent Books, Entry Books, List and Fee Books.

(e) Archives and Documents Transmitted or Deposited amongst the Secretarial, Departmental, and Judicial Records.<sup>10</sup>

State Papers Domestic.<sup>11</sup>

Home Office Records.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For a list of the Departments whose records have been transmitted (in part or in whole) to the Public Record Office from 1877 to 1912, *see* 1912 Report, Appx. (II), p. 121, and 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 211-256. For a history of the archives and their composition and classification, *see* H. Hall, *Studies*, Part I, and C. M. Andrew, *Guide*, Vol. II, and 1914 Report, pp. 13-35.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Letters Received and their enclosures.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Of the Treasury and other Departments.

<sup>4</sup> Loose letters may sometimes be found between the leaves of these Entry Books.

<sup>5</sup> Correspondence is frequently found with these Ministerial Proceedings (described below, pp. 45-50).

<sup>6</sup> *i.e.* Copies of Letters received or sent.

<sup>7</sup> "Reference Books" (containing copies of official reports) are included under this title in the official list of Treasury Records.

<sup>8</sup> Official letters are sometimes inrolled with these Ministerial Proceedings.

<sup>9</sup> Documents subsidiary to purely diplomatic instruments have been noticed above (pp. 17-20), and are not included here (*e.g.* Docquets, etc.). Some of the above also occur in Departmental Records, *see* Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, Nos. XVIII and XXVIII.

<sup>10</sup> For information as to the records of the Privy Council Office and Houses of Parliament, *see* 1914 Report, Appx., pp. 104-110. Amongst the departmental records many are deposited or transmitted. It will be noticed that the transmissions were either regular (Colonial Acts, etc.), or occasional (legation archives, etc.). In some cases, documents were communicated by one Department for the information of another. A distinction must be made between the departmental correspondence and miscellaneous documents.

<sup>11</sup> Returns or Reports from Justices, Commissioners, and Military,

State Papers Foreign.<sup>1</sup>

Foreign Office Records.<sup>1</sup>

Colonial Office Records.<sup>2</sup>

State Papers Supplementary.<sup>3</sup>

State Papers Miscellaneous.<sup>4</sup>

Departmental Records (Treasury, Admiralty, War Office, Customs, etc., etc.).<sup>5</sup>

Naval, and Civil Officers. Archives of various public bodies, Committees, Commissions or Departments. Intelligence from agents and confiscated documents, private and semi-official papers, and miscellaneous (MSS., pamphlets, Blue Books, books, maps, drawings, curios, etc.).

<sup>1</sup> Archives of foreign Legations and Consulates or Factories, Archives of expired Commissions, Congresses, Committees, and abolished departments, Intelligence and Intercepted Letters, vouchers and claims for compensation, private and semi-official papers, etc., and miscellaneous.

<sup>2</sup> Archives of Colonial Governments or ceded possessions, Colonial Acts, Sessional Papers, newspapers, etc.; Archives of Commissions, claims, trade and shipping and exploration reports, surveys, returns, and statistics, private and semi-official papers, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Documents, presumably deposited, including: letters and papers, legal proceedings and accounts (E. VI—J. II), proceedings before the King's Council of the Marches of Wales; Johnson, Darrell, Williamson, and other family papers; ancient maps and plans; original Proclamations, 1620-70, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Semi-official documents, including: pamphlets and treatises, diplomatic and political notes relating to foreign countries, maps, etc.; extracts from records; genealogical notes and constitutional or official precedents. A portion of this collection has been distributed since it was transferred from the State Paper Office.

<sup>5</sup> Archives of expired Commissions and Committees or abolished departments, Logs, Muster Books, Pay Books or Pay Lists periodically transmitted. Intelligence, Wills, Deeds, Court Rolls, and other diplomatic documents deposited. Private or semi-official collections deposited. Many departmental records have not yet been transferred to the Public Record Office (*see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 211 *sq.*)

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

THIS title is suggested for the purpose of bringing together the extensive and widely distributed class of records which, in themselves, are neither of a diplomatic or judicial nature. At the same time ministerial and judicial records are frequently associated with diplomatic instruments requiring a return for the information of the Crown, or with a view to proceedings in a court of justice. For the most part, however, these returns and proceedings have become detached from the originating writ and have come to be regarded as independent records which elucidate many subjects of historical or legal interest. From this point of view the Administrative Proceedings preserved amongst the Public Records can be conveniently arranged in the following divisions:—

1. Accounts.
2. Surveys.
3. Nominal Lists.

A brief account of each of these is prefixed to the respective classified lists in the following pages.

### I. ACCOUNTS.

The Account may be distinguished among ministerial proceedings by a precise and technical formula.<sup>1</sup>

The Account as an official document may be regarded as normally the return to an originating writ, which is often recited in the exposition. The relationship is

<sup>1</sup> W. Cunningham, *Industry and Commerce* (3rd ed.) I, p. 232 sq.

easily seen in the case of an Exchequer "Summons," or of an "Imprest" and "Assignment."

For the purpose of identification it is important to note that an Exchequer account may pass through several stages of presentment from the "Particulars" (serving eventually as vouchers) to the "Original" account, with its "inrolment," subject to an official "view," and audit.<sup>1</sup>

It is also necessary to bear in mind the process of the "Declared Account,"<sup>2</sup> while in later times the "Journal" and the "Ledger" follow the conventional procedure of the counting house.<sup>3</sup> Finally, there are the many forms of compilation found in precedent books. It will be seen from the following Classified List that these documents are especially associated with the Exchequer and Treasury, though from the end of the 17th century onwards, Accounts preserved in the Public Departments begin to occupy our attention. It is not always practicable to distinguish between original and inrolled Accounts, but generally, the former are more detailed and the latter more complete as an existing series. The classes mentioned in the List include some irregular forms and several series of duplicate accounts, which may, however, serve to fill gaps. It will, of course, be understood that the references given in the footnotes to the Classified List indicate types which could easily be multiplied.

### Classified List of Accounts.

#### (a) The Judicial Records.

Chancery<sup>4</sup>—Miscellanea (13-15 C.), (*passim*); Proceedings (15-18 C.), (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> For these see Hall, *Studies*, p. 307; *Formula Book*, Part II, p. 91; *Winchester Pipe Roll*, Intro., p. ix, and *Dialogus de Scaccario* (Oxford ed.), Intro. (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, Vol. II, Preface.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Rules and Schedules*, pp. 343-344.

<sup>4</sup> See also Special Collections (Ancient Correspondence). The Chancery Masters' Documents are under arrangement.

Exchequer (K.R.)—Miscellanea (13-15 C.), (*passim*); Exchequer Accounts (13-16 C.);<sup>1</sup> Miscellaneous Books (17-19 C.), (*passim*); Subsidies (Lay and Clerical), (13-16 C.); Accounts of Land and Assessed Taxes (1688-1830).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)<sup>2</sup>—Chancellor's Rolls (H. II—W. IV); Exannual Rolls (E. I—G. III); Foreign Accounts<sup>3</sup> (E. III—W. IV); Inrolled Accounts (H. III—C. I); Memoranda Rolls (H. III—→); Miscellaneous Books (*passim*); Miscellaneous Rolls (*passim*); Pipe Rolls (H. I—W. IV).

Exchequer (R.)—Auditors' Account Books (1782-1834); Issue Rolls and Books<sup>4</sup> (H. III—W. IV); Miscellaneous Rolls (*passim*); Miscellanea (*passim*); Receipt Rolls and Books<sup>5</sup> (H. III—1834); Tellers' Rolls (H. IV—C. I);<sup>6</sup> Treasurer's Accounts (E. I—H. VII).

Exchequer (T.R.)—Miscellaneous Books (14-16 C.), (*passim*).

Exchequer (A.O.)—Stannary Rolls (E. I—P. and M.); Miscellaneous Books (13-17 C.); Treasurer's Accounts (28 H. VIII—1 Mary).

Exchequer (F.F. and T.)—Receivers' Accounts (H. VIII—W. IV).

Exchequer (L.R.D.)—General Accounts (C. II—W. IV); Receivers' Accounts (H. VIII—1832); Views of Accounts (H. VIII—1832); Miscellaneous Books (16-19 C.), (*passim*); Auditors' Memoranda (H. VIII—1832).

Duchy of Lancaster<sup>7</sup>—Accounts Various; Miscellanea; Miscellaneous Books (*passim*).

Duchy of Cornwall<sup>8</sup>—*See* Exchequer K.R. and A.O.

Palatinate of Durham—Auditors' Records (14-19 C.), (*passim*).

Palatinate of Ely—(*See* below, p. 78.)<sup>9</sup>

Palatinate of Chester<sup>7</sup>—Miscellanea (14 C.—→), (*passim*).

Principality of Wales<sup>7</sup>—Miscellanea (14-19 C.), (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. XXXV. There are separate lists for Customs, Subsidies, etc.

<sup>2</sup> The principal classes only are mentioned here. There are many series of Subsidiary Accounts.

<sup>3</sup> *Lists and Indexes*, No. XI.

<sup>4</sup> Supplying gaps in the preceding series.

<sup>5</sup> Pells' and Auditors' Series.

<sup>6</sup> Supplying gaps in the preceding series.

<sup>7</sup> *See* also below, under "Special Collections".

<sup>8</sup> The Duchy Records have been regarded as of a public nature and some have been transferred to the Record Office with Exchequer Records; *cf.* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 173.

<sup>9</sup> These are Public Records which might be brought in by Warrant at any time.

Court of Wards, etc.—Feodaries' Accounts (Eliz.—C. I); Receiver-Generals' Accounts (H. VIII—C. I); Miscellaneous Records (Eliz.—C. I), (*passim*); Books of Arrears (H. VIII—J. I); Views of Accounts (H. VIII—C. I); Miscellaneous Books (H. VIII—C. I), (*passim*).

Court of Requests—Proceedings (H. VIII—C. I), (*passim*).

Court of Star Chamber—Proceedings (H. VIII—C. I), (*passim*).

High Court of Admiralty<sup>1</sup>—Instance and Prize Records (17-19 C.), (*passim*); Prize Appeal Records (17-19 C.), (*passim*).

Special Collections—Ancient Correspondence<sup>2</sup> (*passim*); Declared Accounts<sup>3</sup> (H. VIII—G. IV); Ministers' Accounts (13-15 C.).

(b) State Papers.

Letters and Papers, Henry VIII (1509-47).

State Papers Domestic (1547-1781).<sup>4</sup>

State Papers Supplementary (16-17 C.).

State Papers Foreign<sup>5</sup> (1547-1782).

Home Office Records (1781→).

Foreign Office Records<sup>5</sup> (1781→).

Colonial Office Records<sup>6</sup> (1574→).

(c) Departmental Records.

Admiralty<sup>7</sup>—Secretary's Department, Miscellanea, etc. (1673→).

Accountant-General's Department<sup>8</sup>—Accounts (Treasurer's), (1681-1822); Accounts (Various), (1673-1836); Accounts (Bill Books), (1642-1831); Accounts (Treasurer's Ledgers), (1660-1836); Miscellanea (1658→).

Victualling Department, Accounts (1660-1831).

Marine Office, Accounts (1702-1831).

Greenwich Hospital—Accounts (Various, *e.g.* Treasurer's, Receivers, and Household), (1700→); Treasurer's Ledgers (1695→); Northern Estates Ledgers (1734→).

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Inventories of Ships and Cargoes.

<sup>2</sup> *See* above, Chancery, to which this class actually belongs.

<sup>3</sup> *See* above, Exchequer, to which this series actually belongs.

<sup>4</sup> General Correspondence, Entry Books, and Commonwealth Committees.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* Fee Books, Secret Service, Messengers, and Legation Expenses.

<sup>6</sup> Fee Books, Audit Books, Colonial Revenue Accounts, etc.

<sup>7</sup> There are also series of Accounts of considerable extent in naval dockyards. (Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records, Appx., p. 229 *sq.*)

<sup>8</sup> Chiefly used as nominal indexes.

Chatham Chest Accounts (1653-1799).

Exchequer and Audit Department<sup>1</sup>—Accounts Various<sup>2</sup> (1530→).

Board of Trade (Commercial Series), (18-19 C.); African Accounts (1771-1805); Customs and Excise, Imports and Exports Accounts, etc. (1780-1822).

Lord Chamberlain's Department<sup>3</sup> (1483→).

Customs and Excise Office<sup>4</sup>—Accounts (1696→).

Ecclesiastical Commission<sup>5</sup> (13-19 C.).

Paymaster-General<sup>6</sup> (1757→).

Lord Steward's Department<sup>7</sup> (1641→).

Treasury Board Records<sup>8</sup>—Accounts<sup>9</sup> (1558→); Accounts Various (17-19 C.); Papers (1547→); Declarations (Pells' and Auditors') (1636-1793).

War Office Records—Accounts<sup>10</sup> (1679→); Ordnance Accounts<sup>11</sup> (16-19 C.); Commissariat Accounts<sup>12</sup> (1782→).

Office of Works—Accounts (1660→).

Archives of expired Commissions or Committees transmitted to or incorporated in the Departmental Records.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See also Special Collections for Declared Accounts.

<sup>2</sup> Including series cognate to the Declared Accounts; but the collection is now very imperfect.

<sup>3</sup> e.g. Jewels and Plate, Great Wardrobe, Salaries, Palaces, Coronations, Funerals, Marriages, etc., some miscellaneous accounts may also be found amongst the series of "Papers" in this collection.

<sup>4</sup> e.g. Inspector-General's Accounts of Imports and Exports, Ledgers of Imports and Exports, States of Revenue. For the important records still preserved at the Custom House, see *Second Report of Public Records Commission*, Part II, pp. 237 sq.

<sup>5</sup> Ministers' Accounts for the episcopal manors, etc.

<sup>6</sup> The Pension and Half-Pay Lists of this Department are chiefly used as nominal indexes.

<sup>7</sup> e.g. Accounts (Comptroller and Lord Steward), Ledgers, Bill Books, Kitchen Books, and series of inrolments.

<sup>8</sup> Including Lowndes Papers and other miscellaneous series.

<sup>9</sup> Accounts, General, Various, and Departmental. Public Income and Expenditure books, 1689-1800.

<sup>10</sup> e.g. Tabular Accounts, Militia Accounts (1780→), Yeomanry Ledgers (1831-9).

<sup>11</sup> e.g. Debentures, Ledgers, Bill Books, and Miscellanea.

<sup>12</sup> e.g. Ledgers, Abstracts, etc.

<sup>13</sup> e.g. Bouillon Correspondence (H.O. and F.O.); Commission on Prince of Wales Debts, etc. (H.O. Various); Levant Co. Ledgers, etc. (S.P. Foreign

Collections deposited in the Public Record Office—Chatham Papers<sup>1</sup> (18-19 C.); Shaftesbury Papers<sup>1</sup> (17-18 C.); Manchester Papers<sup>2</sup> (H. VIII—G. III).

## 2. SURVEYS.

The Ministerial Proceedings included under the above heading are of a somewhat miscellaneous nature: but however much they may differ in origin and form, they have this in common, that they furnish information as to the extent and contents of certain property, whether it be land or chattels or some such intangible possession as an invention.

It has been previously observed that certain administrative proceedings might also be regarded as being in the nature of judicial proceedings. It is true that the usual process by which information was obtained in the mediæval period was by impanelling a jury, but these quasi-judicial functions have been gradually transferred to officers whose activity is purely ministerial.

Among the State Papers and Departmental Records there are many documents, in the form of official descriptions or returns, which differ materially from the returns brought into the Chancery during an earlier period.<sup>3</sup> These types cannot be noticed in detail until the records have been adequately listed.

Misc.); French Emigré Establishment Books (F.O.); Accounts and Ledgers for Tangiers and Ceylon (C.O. Entry Books); Treasury Records: Slave Compensation, 1870-40; Commissioners of Forfeited Estates, 1716-25; African Company, 1660-1830; American Loyalists' Claims, 1783-1803; French Refugees' Relief Committee, 1789-1803.

<sup>1</sup> A few odd Declared Accounts, etc.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Household Books, 16th century.

<sup>3</sup> *e.g.* Inquests, extents, rentals, awards, particulars, descriptions, and valuations of lands, buildings, stock, goods, etc. Since this was written the first two volumes of a valuable Calendar of Chancery Miscellaneous Inquisitions have been published.



**Classified List of Surveys.***(a)* Judicial Records.

Chancery—Charitable Uses, Proceedings of Commissioners for<sup>1</sup> (Eliz.—G. III); Close Rolls (1756→);<sup>2</sup> Inquisitions *Ad Quod Damnum* (H. III—R. III);<sup>3</sup> Inquisitions, Miscellaneous (13-15 C.); Inquisitions *Post Mortem* (H. III—C. I); Specifications<sup>4</sup> and Surrender Rolls (1709→); Surveys of Church Livings (Commonwealth); Miscellanea.<sup>5</sup>

Chancery (Cr.O.)—Commissions, etc.<sup>6</sup> (Anne—W. IV).

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Chancery Files (*passim*), (1598→); Inquisitions (Lunacy), (C. I→); Special Commissions (J. I—Vict.).<sup>7</sup>

Exchequer—Miscellanea (*passim*).

Exchequer of Pleas—Plea Rolls (1771-1832).<sup>8</sup>

Exchequer (K.R.)—Escheators' Files (H. I—R. III); Exchequer Proceedings (H. III—Anne); Exchequer Extents (13-17 C.); Extents of Alien Priories (22 E. I—22 E. IV); Forest Proceedings (H. III—Cmnwlth.); Inquisitions *Post Mortem* (H. III—J. I); Inventories of Church Goods (E. VI); Inventories of Goods, etc., of Attainted Persons, etc. (John—C. I); Knights' Fees, Return of (H. II—C. I)<sup>9</sup>; Memoranda Rolls (1216→)<sup>10</sup>; Nonae Rolls (1340-2); Particulars for Grants of Crown Lands (H. VIII—C. II); Special Commissions of Inquiry (Eliz.→)<sup>11</sup>; Miscellaneous Books<sup>12</sup> (13-17 C.).

<sup>1</sup> Inquisitions, etc., of Commissioners appointed to enquire into abuses. As to these *see* below, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> Contain Inclosure Awards from 1756.

<sup>3</sup> For later years filled with Inquisitions P.M. and from James I with P.B.O. Chancery Files.

<sup>4</sup> Rolls Chapel and P.B.O. Series.

<sup>5</sup> Include Inquisitions respecting Depopulation (Hen. VIII).

<sup>6</sup> For fortifying docks and harbours at Portsmouth, Chatham, Plymouth, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Referring, *inter alia*, to Aliens, Concealed Lands, Depopulation, Derelict Lands, Forfeitures, Lands given to Superstitious Uses, Perambulations of Forests.

<sup>8</sup> Inclosure Awards from 1771-1832.      <sup>9</sup> See Descriptive List (MS.).

<sup>10</sup> *e.g.* Special Commissions of Inquiry and, from 1817, Inclosure Awards.

<sup>11</sup> *e.g.* Boundaries, Concealed Lands, Marsh Lands, Mills, Possessions of Persons Attainted, Sea Banks, Tithes, Woods.

<sup>12</sup> *e.g.* Breviate of Domesday, *Testa de Nevill*, *Taxatio Ecclesiastica*, Transcript of Kirkby's Quest, various Surveys of Manors, etc.

- Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls (1216-1835)<sup>1</sup>; Particulars for Leases (Eliz.—G. IV); Miscellaneous Rolls<sup>2</sup> (13-14 C.).
- Exchequer (T.R.)—Domesday Book (1086)<sup>3</sup>; Forest Proceedings (H. III—C. II); Miscellaneous Books<sup>4</sup> (13-18 C.).
- Exchequer (A.O.)—Particulars of Concealed Lands (Eliz.); of Crown Lands (H. VIII—C. I); of Grammar Schools (1551-2); for Leases (H. VIII—J. I); for Sale of Crown Lands, and "Parliamentary Surveys" (Cmnlwth.); Miscellaneous Books<sup>5</sup> (13-16 C.).
- Exchequer (F.F. and T.)—Liber Decimarum (1709); Valor Ecclesiasticus (H. VIII)<sup>6</sup>; Miscellaneous Books<sup>7</sup> (16-19 C.).
- Exchequer (L.R.)—Inrolment Books (1536-1832)<sup>8</sup>; Particulars for Grants (H. VIII—G. II); Miscellaneous Books<sup>9</sup> (H. VIII—1832).
- King's Bench—Plea Rolls (1760→).<sup>10</sup>
- Common Pleas—Recovery Rolls (1762→).<sup>10</sup>
- Court of Wards and Liveries (H. VIII—C. I)—Extents; Inquisitions *Post Mortem*<sup>11</sup>; Particulars for Leases; Miscellaneous Books.<sup>12</sup>
- Chester, Palatinate of—Forest Rolls (1271-1503); Inquisitions *Post Mortem*, etc. (E. III—C. I).
- Cornwall, Earldom and Duchy of<sup>13</sup>—Assession Rolls (E. III—J. I); "Captio Seisinae Ducatus Cornubiae" (11 E. III); Miscellaneous Accounts and Papers (E. III—C. II)<sup>14</sup>; Miscellaneous Rolls (E. I—C. I).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Special Commissions of Inquiry with Returns.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* *Nomina Villarum* (1316).

<sup>3</sup> Also an Abbreviation (12 C.). Another copy (13 C.) is in K.R.

<sup>4</sup> *e.g.* Inventories of Stores, Plate, Jewels, etc., transcripts from Kirkby's Quest, *Testa de Nevill*, etc.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* Surveys, Rentals, Valors, Inventories, Particulars for Leases, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Also volumes of extracts (*Liber Valorum*), transcripts (*Liber Regis*), and abstracts.

<sup>7</sup> Include Valuation of Province of Canterbury, 1586.

<sup>8</sup> *e.g.* Inquisitions, Surveys, etc.

<sup>9</sup> *e.g.* Surveys, Rentals, Inventories, Particulars for Sales, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Inclosure Awards.

<sup>11</sup> Duplicates of Chancery Series returned into Court of Wards.

<sup>12</sup> *e.g.* Surveys, Valuations, etc.

<sup>13</sup> With the exception of "Captio Seisinae Ducatus Cornubiae," which is among K.R. Records, documents mentioned are among A.O. Records. See also A.O. Misc. Books, 15, 17, and 78.

<sup>14</sup> *e.g.* Articles of inquiry as to customs of manors, etc.

Durham, Palatinate of—Decree Book, vols. 1-4 (17-18 C.)<sup>1</sup>; Extents (J. I); Inquisitions *Post Mortem* (1318—C. I).

Lancaster, Duchy of—Extents for Debt (Eliz.—C. II); Forest Proceedings (*passim*), (H. III—G. III); Inquisitions *Post Mortem* (H. III—C. I); Maps and Plans (Eliz.—G. III);<sup>2</sup> Rentals and Surveys (13-17 C.); Special Commissions and Returns (Eliz.—G. III); Surveys (Parliamentary), (Cmnlwth.);<sup>3</sup> Miscellanea<sup>4</sup> (*passim*); Miscellaneous Books<sup>5</sup> (*passim*).

Lancaster, Palatinate of—Inquisitions (Lunacy), (C. II—W. IV); Inquisitions *Post Mortem* (H. IV—H. VIII).

Wales and Chester—Inclosure Awards (1741-1811).

Special Collections—Hundred Rolls (H. III—E. I); Ministers' Accounts (13-17 C.); Rentals and Surveys (14-17 C.).

#### (b) State Papers.

S.P. Dom.—General Correspondence<sup>6</sup> (1509-1781); Committee for Compounding with Delinquents<sup>7</sup> (1643-60); Commonwealth Exchequer Papers (1642-60); Maps, Plans, and Charts.

S.P. For. and S.P. Supplementary.<sup>8</sup>

#### (c) Departmental Records.<sup>9</sup>

Admiralty (Secretary)—Miscellanea (*passim*), (18-19 C.).

Admiralty (Accountant-General)—Miscellanea (*passim*), (1673-1836); Ships' Logs (Explorations), (18-19 C.).

Admiralty (Navy Board)—Miscellanea<sup>10</sup> (1660-1832).

Admiralty (Greenwich Hospital)—Miscellanea<sup>11</sup> (1694→).

Admiralty (Controller of the Navy)—Miscellanea<sup>9</sup> (1689→).

<sup>1</sup> Contain Inclosure Awards.

<sup>2</sup> Relating to Extents, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Chiefly transcripts of those among A.O. Records.

<sup>4</sup> *e.g.* Inquisitions, Inventories, etc.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* The Great Cowchers, containing, *inter alia*, Perambulations of Forests, Rentals, Surveys, etc. For John of Gaunt's Register (Misc. Books 13 and 14), see R. Hist. Soc., Camden, 3rd Series, Vols. XX and XXI.

<sup>6</sup> Surveys of Forests, Crown Lands, Navy, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Royalist Composition Papers—Surveys.

<sup>8</sup> Maps, plans, etc.

<sup>9</sup> For other Departmental Records, not yet transferred to the Public Record Office, see 1914 Report (*passim*).

<sup>10</sup> Surveys of Ships and Stores.

<sup>11</sup> Surveys of Derwentwater Estates and Rentals of Greenwich Estates.

- Colonial Office — Original Correspondence (various Colonies) <sup>1</sup>  
(1574→).
- Ecclesiastical Commission—Rentals of Manors (13-19 C.).
- Treasury—Maps and Plans (1783→); Miscellanea <sup>2</sup> (17-19 C.).
- War Office—Miscellanea, Various <sup>3</sup> (17-19 C.).
- War Office (Ordnance)—Miscellanea <sup>3</sup> (1570→).
- Office of H.M. Woods, etc.—Records of Surveys of Forests, etc.  
(17-19 C.).<sup>4</sup>
- Board of Agriculture and Fisheries—Tithe Maps, etc. (1836→).<sup>5</sup>
- Abolished Offices and expired Commissions.
- Commissioners of Forfeited Estates—Rentals, etc. (1716-25).
- Royal African Company—Detached Papers <sup>6</sup> (1672-1821).
- Documents deposited in the Archives—Shaftesbury Papers <sup>6</sup> (17 C.);  
Rodney Papers <sup>7</sup> (18 C.).

### 3. NOMINAL LISTS.

Under this head we include Muster Rolls, Pay Lists, Establishments, and other contemporary lists of names of persons officially compiled, together with such files, inrolments or books, as serve a similar purpose.

The first difficulty is in deciding what to regard as Nominal Lists, and what to exclude as properly belonging to some other category; for while most records mention names, some give them almost seriatim or in conspicuous abundance.

*Diplomatic Documents* yield names, sporadically, as Originals, while the Chancery Inrolments are an acknowledged source of biographical information and supply names of persons in great variety.<sup>8</sup> Amongst *Ministerial Proceedings* we find that Nominal Lists occur frequently in such classes as Accounts and Surveys,<sup>8</sup> Inquisitions,

<sup>1</sup> African Exploration, Indian Surveys, Jesuits' Estates, Plantation Surveys, Maps and Plans.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Records of expired Commissions: Slave Registration, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Various surveys.

<sup>4</sup> *See*, for Records preserved in H.M. Office of Woods, etc., *Second Report of Public Records Commission* (1914), Part II, pp. 248 *sq.*

<sup>5</sup> *See ibid.*, pp. 254-255.

<sup>6</sup> Inventories and Surveys.

<sup>7</sup> St. Eustatius captures.

<sup>8</sup> *See Classified List below.*

and Assessments. Among *Judicial Proceedings*, described below, records of Pleadings provide names sporadically, Judicial Inquisitions give lists of names, and subsidiary Judicial Records include large numbers of documents which are actually or practically Nominal Lists, though often of but slight historical value, *e.g.* Attorneys' and Solicitors' Oath Rolls, Files and Registers of Articles of Clerkship, Jury Lists, Lists of Prisoners and Convicts, Essoin Rolls.

The following List, therefore, includes not only records which furnish strings of names, but also such as contain persistent references. A further difficulty, however, arises in deciding what to exclude on the ground that the documents are not of historical, though possibly of genealogical value. We have here excluded isolated specimens of unimportant documents, as well as records, which, though numerous or complete and useful for family history and biography, are of slight historical value, *e.g.* Recognizances, Sacrament Certificates, Pardons, Sequestrations, lists of Petty Jurors, Outlaws and Prisoners, Grand Jurors, Attorneys, Solicitors, Informers, and Convicts.

Finally, an immense mass of Pay Books, Pay Lists, etc., among the records of the Administrative Departments, has had to be dismissed with merely a passing reference, although these are largely used by genealogists and military and naval historians or biographers.

As regards the distribution of these Nominal Lists, considerable numbers of them, often extending back to the 13th century, are found among the Judicial Records, sometimes in most unlikely documents.

The records of the Chancery and Exchequer and their sub-departments will prove a fruitful source of information.

State Papers, and especially the Domestic series, include large numbers of Nominal Lists, similar to those

mentioned above, while a still larger number is contained in the records of the modern Departments, the historical value of which is becoming increasingly recognized. An attempt has been made here to indicate those most deserving of examination by students of history.<sup>1</sup>

**The Following are the Chief Classes of Persons Found  
in these Lists.**

*Aliens and Travellers, e.g.* Aliens, Hostages, Emigrants, Jews, Naturalized Persons, Prisoners of War, Refugees, British Subjects abroad, "Loyalists," Ships' Passengers.

*Armed Forces of the Crown :—*

I. *Land Forces,*<sup>1</sup> including Knights and Esquires, musters for Military Expeditions, Mercenaries, Constables of Castles, Garrisons, Officers and Soldiers of the Regular Forces, Militia, Yeomanry, Volunteers, Foreign Troops.

II. *Sea Forces and Shipping,* including Navy, Mercantile Marine, Coast Defence and Privateers,<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Officers, Sailors, Owners, and Masters of Ships, etc.

*Disaffected Persons and Suspects, e.g.* Commonwealth "Delinquents," Nonconformists, Rebels, Recusants, etc.

*Ecclesiastical Persons, e.g.* beneficed and pensioned, regular and secular Clergy, etc.

*Unofficial Persons in Fiscal Relationship to Government, e.g.* Annuity holders, Assignees of Crown Revenues, Contributors to Government Loans, Tontines, etc., Creditors and Debtors of the Crown or the Jews, Dividend Holders, Grantees of Crown Lands or Leases, Pensioners, Tax-payers, etc.

*Landholders, e.g.* Claimants to and Holders of Liberties, Manors, etc., Cottagers, Encroachers on Forests or other Lands, Freeholders, Grantees of Lands, Leaseholders and other Tenants, etc.

*Nobles, Baronets, Knights, Ladies, Serjeants,* and other persons of social distinction.

*Oaths, Persons bound by, e.g.* by the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, the Association Oath of 1696, etc.

*Officials* of all ranks and sorts, *e.g.* of the Royal Household, Central

<sup>1</sup> The official documents above referred to include collections deposited in the Public Record Office, and Indices, etc., compiled by various official or private record searchers, past and present.

<sup>2</sup> Also widows and children of soldiers and sailors.

Courts and Departments, Local Courts and Governments, Channel Islands, Forests, Royal Estates, Palatinates, Cities and Boroughs, Manorial Estates, etc.

*Population, e.g.* Colonists, Freemen, Inhabitants in the Census Returns, Parliamentary Electors, etc.

*Professional Men, e.g.* Lawyers, Law Clerks, Schoolmasters, University Students, etc.

*Traders and other classes of economic interest, e.g.* Artisans, Alehouse keepers and Taverners, Bankers and Goldsmiths, Boatmen, Clothiers, Cookshop Owners, Creditors, Debtors, Drovers, Freemen of City Companies, Higglers, Labourers, Maltsters, Merchants (native and foreign), Subscribers to Lotteries and Tontines, Newspaper Owners, Owners of Horses and Carts, Printers and Publishers, Serfs (manumitted), Servants, Slaves, Slave Owners, Tin Miners, Victuallers, Vintners, Wool Merchants, etc.

### **Classified List<sup>1</sup> of Public Records Containing Materials for Nominal Lists.**

#### **(a) Judicial Records.**

Chancery—Miscellanea<sup>2</sup> (John—W. III): *e.g.* Feudal Service, Documents relating<sup>3</sup> to: Army and Navy,<sup>4</sup> etc.; Household and Wardrobe, Works,<sup>5</sup> etc.; Wardrobe Books<sup>6</sup>; Marshalsey Rolls or Proffers of Service<sup>7</sup>; Special Commissions<sup>8</sup>; Evidences,<sup>9</sup> etc.; Channel Islands, Ireland, and Wales<sup>10</sup>; Forests<sup>11</sup>; Foreign

<sup>1</sup> The selection made here is only intended to be suggestive.

<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of the unclassified documents "under arrangement".

<sup>3</sup> Lists of persons liable for feudal service, knights, members of Parliament.

<sup>4</sup> Returns, lists, wages rolls, certificates, schedules of persons subject to feudal service, keepers of castles, garrisons, keepers of the coast, owners of horses, owners and masters of ships, sailors, arrayers, clergy, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Lists, rolls, etc., of soldiers, sailors, workmen, purveyors, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Payments to huntsmen, falconers, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Rolls of military service, summons, and of proffers of service.

<sup>8</sup> Owners of liberties or franchises, tin miners, offenders against special jurisdictions, etc.

<sup>9</sup> Lists of knights, condemned Jews, etc. Pedigrees of various families.

<sup>10</sup> Rolls of Inquisitions of Jersey, Guernsey, and the Channel Islands (E. I). Jury panels. Holders of concealed lands (H. VIII). Owners and masters of ships. Tenants. Soldiers serving in France (H. VI), etc.

<sup>11</sup> Names of foresters. Lists, returns, presentments of offenders against the forest laws.

- Merchants<sup>1</sup>; Ecclesiastical Documents<sup>2</sup>; Scottish Documents<sup>3</sup>; French Possessions<sup>4</sup>; Foreign Relations.<sup>5</sup>
- Chancery Inrolments<sup>6</sup>—Bishops' Patent Rolls<sup>7</sup> (G. I→); Close Rolls (Supplementary),<sup>8</sup> (H. III—H. VI); Fine Rolls<sup>9</sup> (John—C. I); Patent Rolls<sup>10</sup> (H. VII→); Scutage Rolls<sup>11</sup> (John—E. III); Liberate Rolls<sup>12</sup> (John—H. VI).
- Chancery—Parliamentary Writs and Returns<sup>13</sup> (E. I→).
- Chancery (Cr. Off.)—Docket Books<sup>14</sup> (1595-1810).
- Chancery (P.B.O.)—Miscellaneous Rolls<sup>15</sup> (H. VIII—G. I); Admissions of Officers, Rolls of<sup>16</sup> (Eliz.→); Certificates (Various)<sup>17</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Merchants, debtors, creditors, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Clergy, beneficed aliens, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Diplomatic representatives; homage rolls, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Bordeaux officials; Calais wool merchants (E. III); Moneyers (H. VI); Crown tenants (H. V.); Gascon notables (E. I).

<sup>5</sup> Ambassadors, claimants for compensation, English and foreign merchants; Scottish homages; governors of Guienne and Gascony (E. I—E. III); allies of Edward I, etc.

<sup>6</sup> For the general contents of all these inrolments, *see* the official *Guide*, pp. 26-41, and above, 6 (A).

<sup>7</sup> Appointments of Bishops (*see* also Patent Rolls), and Customs Officers (*see* also Fine Rolls).

<sup>8</sup> Respite of knighthood; Protections when on military service; forfeitures; passes; foreign merchants issuing letters of exchange.

<sup>9</sup> Appointments of sheriffs, escheators, customers, comptrollers, searchers. Exemptions from safe conducts, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Grants of offices, titles of nobility, ecclesiastical dignities, letters of denization, etc. The names of successive office-holders can be obtained from these records in the case of a particular office.

<sup>11</sup> Military tenants.

<sup>12</sup> Officials and others.

<sup>13</sup> Returns of Knights of the Shire and Burgesses in Parliament.

<sup>14</sup> Lords Lieutenants of Counties, Justices of the Peace.

<sup>15</sup> *e.g.* Recognizance Rolls (H. VIII); Fealty Roll (Eliz.); Admissions of Masters, etc., of Chancery; Pensions (C. I); Commissioners of subsidies, sheriffs, and escheators, etc. (Eliz.—J. I).

<sup>16</sup> Officers of the Chancery Court.

<sup>17</sup> Keepers of taverns and cookshops, recusants and persons concealed, members of Parliament, Solicitors, and Attorneys admitted (G. I—G. III).



Oath Rolls ("Association"),<sup>1</sup> (1696), (W. III); Oaths, Inrolments of<sup>2</sup> (C. II—Anne); Sheriffs' Rolls<sup>3</sup> (H. VIII—C. I).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Accounts, Various<sup>4</sup> (John—G. III); Alien Priories, etc., Extents of<sup>5</sup> (E. I—22 E. IV); Forest Proceedings<sup>6</sup> (H. III—C. I.); Serjeanties, Knights' Fees and Service, documents relating to<sup>7</sup> (H. II—C. I); Miscellaneous Books<sup>8</sup> (E. I→); Papists' Estates, Returns of, with Index (G. I); Licenses to pass beyond the Seas<sup>9</sup> (Eliz.—C. II); Special Commissions<sup>10</sup> (Eliz.→); Subsidies (Lay and Clerical) (H. III—C. II)<sup>11</sup>; (Certificates of Residence (Eliz.—J. I); Victuallers' Recognizances<sup>12</sup> (Eliz.—J. I).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>13</sup> (C. I—W. IV); Miscellaneous Rolls<sup>14</sup> (H. II→); Castle Guard Rents (C. II—J. II); Recusant Rolls<sup>15</sup> (Eliz.—W. and M).

<sup>1</sup> Members of Parliament, City Freemen, Civil and Military Officers, Clergy and Gentry of England and Wales.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Officers and men in the Fleet who had taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy (12 C. II).

<sup>3</sup> Lists of persons proposed as Sheriffs, showing those selected. A later series is preserved among the records of the former Six Clerks' Office.

<sup>4</sup> An extensive and important series. For a summary List, *see* Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. XXXV.

<sup>5</sup> Returns of beneficed aliens.

<sup>6</sup> Forest officers, claimants of rights in forests, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Tenants by knight service, serjeanty, castle guard, etc. Lists of knights' fees and of homage done. (*See* also above, "Surveys".) Some of these feodaries have been printed.

<sup>8</sup> For list of Books in Series I, *see* official *Guide*; for those in Series II, *see* official MS. Class List of Exchequer (K.R.).

<sup>9</sup> Soldiers and others going abroad, to Ireland, New England, West Indies, and elsewhere.

<sup>10</sup> *e.g.* Owners of concealed lands, persons attainted, Crown debtors, etc.

<sup>11</sup> These include "Hearth Tax Returns" and "Alien Subsidies".

<sup>12</sup> Names of victuallers, etc. Bonds given by persons not to kill, dress, or eat flesh during Lent.

<sup>13</sup> Crown tenants, etc. Collectors of subsidies (J. I).

<sup>14</sup> Lists of Jurors, Serjeants, Wards of the Crown, etc.

<sup>15</sup> Names of nonconformists, with penalties incurred.

- Exchequer (R.)<sup>1</sup>—Miscellanea<sup>2</sup> (1558→); Miscellaneous Rolls<sup>3</sup>; (H. III—G. III); Assignment Books (Goldsmiths'), Series I<sup>4</sup> (1676-1713); Gentlemen Pensioners' Rolls (P. and M.—G. III); Jews' Rolls<sup>5</sup> (John—E. I); Liberate Rolls<sup>6</sup> (10 H. III—34 E. I).
- Exchequer (T. of R.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>7</sup> (H. VII—G. I); Black Book of the Exchequer<sup>8</sup>; Forest Proceedings<sup>9</sup>; Liber Memorandorum Camerarii<sup>10</sup> (E. III—H. VIII); Registrum Munimentorum<sup>11</sup> (H. III—E. I).
- Exchequer (A.O.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>12</sup> (H. III—W. III).
- Exchequer (F.F. and T.)—Miscellaneous Books<sup>13</sup> (H. VIII→) Benefices, Returns and Certificates of,<sup>14</sup> (Eliz.—W. III); Bishops' Certificates of Institutions and Livings<sup>14</sup> (1553→); Composition Books (Indexes),<sup>15</sup> (1656-1798).
- Exchequer (L.R.)<sup>16</sup> (*passim*), (16-19 C.).
- King's Bench (C.S.)—Oath Rolls, or "Swearing Rolls"<sup>17</sup> (1673-1837);

<sup>1</sup> Names of officials will also be found in the Pells' and Auditors' Patent and Privy Seal Books (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> Including (subject to rearrangement) names of annuitants, pensioners, contributors to loans, informers. Compositions for knighthood, 1630-32. Index to Officers and Appointments, 1558-1837. Pay Lists of Gentlemen Pensioners, 1796-98.

<sup>3</sup> Fines from persons trading without warrant; from the religious; from the alien religious. Receipt Rolls, Rolls of Taxes (tenths, fifteenths, etc.). Compositions for knights' fees (C.I.).

<sup>4</sup> Goldsmiths or Bankers.

<sup>5</sup> Tallages, fines, and amercements of Jews.

<sup>6</sup> Names of Exchequer officials, Justices, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Certificates of Musters and Monastic Pensions, Freemen of London Companies, Servants of the Royal Household, Grant of Crown Lands, etc.

<sup>8</sup> Admissions of various officers of the Exchequer.

<sup>9</sup> Forest officers, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Includes list of Goldsmiths *temp.* R. II, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Includes submissions, homage, grants, etc., relating to Wales, Gascony, and other countries.

<sup>12</sup> Musters, grants of offices, pensions, advowsons, etc.

<sup>13</sup> Lists of beneficed clergy instituted; clergy presented; church dignitaries liable for first-fruits; beneficed clergy and sequestered Cornish clergy.

<sup>14</sup> Names of beneficed clergy.

<sup>15</sup> Sureties for payment of compositions for First Fruits.

<sup>16</sup> Tenants of Crown Lands.

<sup>17</sup> Names of persons who had taken the Oath of Allegiance, the Sacrament and Test Oaths, the Association Oath, *temp.* William III, the Naturalization Oath, 1-12 Anne, etc. See above, Chancery (P.B.O.).

Papists in Lancashire, Returns of (G. I); Essoin Rolls<sup>1</sup> (R. III—G. III).

Common Pleas—Appointments of Filazers, etc.<sup>2</sup> (1674-1831); Essoin Rolls<sup>1</sup> (H. III—G. III); Oaths of Allegiance (Roman Catholic), Roll of (1778-1829); Oaths of Allegiance (Clergymen), Roll of (1789-1836).

Palatinate of Chester—Crown Books (Chester and Flint),<sup>3</sup> (H. VIII—W. IV); Essoin Rolls (Chester), (E. III—H. VII); Miscellanea (E. II—W. IV).

Duchy of Cornwall,<sup>4</sup>—Exchequer T. of R. and A.O. (*passim*), (E. III—C. II).

Duchy of Lancaster—Accounts (Various),<sup>5</sup> (E. I—G. III); Chancery Rolls, Indentures, Leases, Homages, etc.<sup>6</sup> (H. VI—E. IV); Presentations<sup>7</sup> (H. VI—E. IV); Forest Proceedings<sup>8</sup> (H. III—G. III); Knights' Fees, Returns, etc.,<sup>9</sup> of (H. II—C. I); Miscellanea<sup>10</sup> (W. I→); Miscellaneous Books<sup>11</sup> (John—G. III).

Principality of Wales<sup>12</sup>—Crown Books (Chester and Flint),<sup>13</sup> (H. VIII—W. IV); Ruthin Records<sup>14</sup> (1722-98).

Special Collections—Ministers' Accounts<sup>15</sup> (Documents subsidiary to), (E. III—E. IV); Declared Accounts (Pipe and Audit Office), (H. VII—G. IV).<sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Names of persons who excused themselves for non-appearance when summoned by Writ.

<sup>2</sup> Officers of the Court. For their duties, *see official Guide*.

<sup>3</sup> Welsh Recusants, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Returns of tenants, etc. *cf.* above, p. 52.

<sup>5</sup> Annuitants and pensioners.

<sup>6</sup> Feudal and other tenants.

<sup>7</sup> Beneficed clergy.

<sup>8</sup> Forest officials; claimants to liberties, dwellers within forest bounds; encroachers and other offenders against forest laws, etc.

<sup>9</sup> Knights' fees, lords of manors, tenants, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Bondmen (16th century).

<sup>11</sup> Knights' fees; recipients of grants, offices, manumissions, etc.

<sup>12</sup> *cf.* *Y. Cymmrodor* (1910), p. 1 *sq.*

<sup>13</sup> Lists of Welsh Recusants, etc.

<sup>14</sup> Freeholders, etc.

<sup>15</sup> Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. VIII. Lists of creditors, tenants, etc.

<sup>16</sup> *cf.* below, Exchequer and Audit Office.

## (b) State Papers.

State Papers Domestic<sup>1</sup> (1509-1781).

Home Office Records<sup>2</sup> (1782→).

Foreign Office Records<sup>3</sup> (1782→).

Colonial Office Records—Original Correspondence<sup>4</sup>; Miscellaneous<sup>5</sup>; Entry Books<sup>6</sup>; Board of Trade<sup>7</sup>; General: Miscellanea<sup>8</sup> (1574→).

(c) Departmental Records.<sup>9</sup>

Admiralty:<sup>10</sup> Secretary's Department—Registers, Returns and Certificates;<sup>11</sup> Miscellanea<sup>12</sup> (1673→).

Accountant-General's Department—Registers<sup>13</sup> (1651→); Miscellanea (Various),<sup>14</sup> (1668-1836).

Navy Board—Registers<sup>15</sup> (1660-1830); Passing Certificates (Indexes) (1691→).

Victualling Department—Registers<sup>16</sup> (1703→).

<sup>1</sup> Including the Proceedings of the Commonwealth Committees. For special subject headings *see* official *Guide*, pp. 355-365.

<sup>2</sup> Lists of immigrants, convicts, military officers, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Ministers, consuls, and other diplomatic agents. (Some have been edited by Prof. Firth and Mr. J. F. Chance.)

<sup>4</sup> *e.g.* Colonial establishments, convicts, etc. *See* Rolls, Calendars; C. M. Andrews, *Guide* (1912-14), and official histories of New South Wales and South African Governments.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* Lists of grants, acts, etc.

<sup>6</sup> *e.g.* Emigration. *See* also Land and Emigration Commission, 1835→.

<sup>7</sup> *e.g.* Establishments, etc.

<sup>8</sup> *e.g.* Returns of Colonial Appointments.

<sup>9</sup> For Statutory and Departmental Registries, *see* 1914 and 1919 Reports (*passim*).

<sup>10</sup> For further information *see* G. Fothergill, *Records of Naval Men* (1910).

<sup>11</sup> *e.g.* Officers' Commissions and Services, List Books (ships), Pensioners, Appointment Books, etc.

<sup>12</sup> *e.g.* Lists of names of slaves, rebels, freemen, colonists, servants, mariners, etc.

<sup>13</sup> *e.g.* Ships' Muster Books and Pay Books, Salaries and Pensions, Full Pay, etc.

<sup>14</sup> *e.g.* Lists of Ships, etc.

<sup>15</sup> *e.g.* Officers' Appointments, Description Books of Artificers, etc.

<sup>16</sup> *e.g.* Pay Lists, Pensions, Musters, etc.

Medical Department—Registers of Prisoners of War (1755-1820);  
Registers (Various),<sup>1</sup> (1778-1823).

Greenwich Hospital—Registers, etc.<sup>2</sup> (1591→); Miscellanea (*passim*), (1639→).

Chatham Chest Records<sup>3</sup> (1653-1799).

Exchequer and Audit Department—Accounts and Subsidiary Documents<sup>4</sup> (1559→).

Lord Chamberlain's Department—Registers<sup>5</sup> (1641→).

Customs and Excise Office—Establishment Books<sup>6</sup> (1675-1829).

National Debt Office<sup>7</sup> (1733-89).

Paymaster-General's Department—Army "Establishment Books" (1737→); Navy "Establishment Books" (1836→).

Treasury—Registers<sup>8</sup> (1708→).

War Office—Chelsea Registers (1814→); Establishments<sup>9</sup> (1661→); Muster Rolls and Pay Lists<sup>10</sup> (1758→); Registers (Various)<sup>11</sup> (1660→); Army Lists<sup>12</sup> (1702→); Weeded Papers.<sup>13</sup>

*e.g.* Hospital Establishment Books.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Officers and Pensioners, School Admission Papers, and School Registers.

<sup>3</sup> Registers of Payments to Pensioners.

<sup>4</sup> *e.g.* Establishments, Foreign Troops, Yeomen of the Guard, Prisoners of War, Contributors to Scottish Fund, Newspaper owners, French Refugees, etc., etc.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* Appointment and Salary Books; Establishment Books of the Household, etc. Similar lists may be found in the records of the Lord Steward and the Master of the Horse.

<sup>6</sup> Other early records are preserved in the Customs and Inland Revenue Departments. *cf.* 1914 Report, Appx., pp. 127, 239-242.

<sup>7</sup> *e.g.* Registers of Proprietors of, and Subscribers to, Life Annuities and Tontines. Lists of Lottery Ticketholders are preserved in the Inland Revenue Department.

<sup>8</sup> *e.g.* Establishment Books, Treasury, Customs and Excise, Emigration Lists, 1773-76.

<sup>9</sup> *e.g.* General, Half Pay, Widows' Pensions, Foreign Military Pensions, etc.

<sup>10</sup> *cf.* Public Record Office, *List of War Office Records*, Vol. I. Introduction (*Lists and Indexes*, XXVIII). It will be seen from the *Second Report* (1914) of the *Public Records Commission*, Part II, p. 211 *sq.*, that many records of this nature are still preserved in regimental depots.

<sup>11</sup> *e.g.* Notification, Succession, and Description Books, Returns of Officers' and Soldiers' Services, Casualty Returns, Embarkation and Disembarkation Returns, Half Pay, Pensions, etc.

<sup>12</sup> Manuscript lists, 1702-1816; printed lists, 1754→.

<sup>13</sup> Selected from O.S. and other departmental papers. An index has been printed for the War Office. Wills and reports of marriages are also occasionally found.

War Office (Ordnance) — Registers<sup>1</sup> (1594→); Miscellanea<sup>2</sup> (1570→).

War Office (Commissariat)—Registers<sup>1</sup> (1798→).

Expired Commissions,<sup>3</sup> Archives of Treasury—Royal African Company<sup>4</sup> (1660-1830); American Loyalists and other 'Claims'<sup>5</sup> (G. III—W. IV); Forfeited Estates Commissioners<sup>6</sup> (1716-25); Slave Compensation<sup>7</sup> (1817→).

Collections deposited in P.R.O.—Bosanquet Papers<sup>8</sup>; Golden Grove Book (18-19 C.)<sup>9</sup>; Manchester Papers<sup>10</sup> (H. VIII—G. III); Shaftesbury Papers<sup>11</sup> (17-18 C.).

Modern Calendars, Indexes, and Lists in MS.<sup>12</sup>—Agarde's Indexes<sup>13</sup>; Le Neve's Indexes;<sup>14</sup> Palmer's Indexes.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Persons employed, Appointment Books, Pay Lists, Musters, etc.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Lists of ships and gunners, 1702-03; of landholders in George Town, Honduras; Pay Lists, 1813-23, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Most of these are now incorporated in the State Papers or in the records of various Departments; *e.g.* Colonial Office and Foreign Office. (*See* 1914 Report, Appx., p. 267, and below, p. 171.)

<sup>4</sup> Lists of passengers, ships' crews, freemen, servants, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Including the Commissions for dealing with the American Loyalists, Claims for Compensation, and the relief of French Refugees.

<sup>6</sup> *e.g.* Popish Recusants, Rebels, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Slave owners, slaves, etc.

<sup>8</sup> *e.g.* Musters of Westminster Light Horse Volunteers, 1779-1831.

<sup>9</sup> A collection of Welsh Pedigrees (deposited by Lord Cawdor).

<sup>10</sup> *e.g.* Lists of Colonists (17th century).

<sup>11</sup> *e.g.* Military establishments, etc.

<sup>12</sup> There is an Official List of this extensive collection.

<sup>13</sup> A collection, with *Indices Locorum* and occasionally *Nominum*, of Abstracts from, and references to, the *Assize*, *Quo Warranto*, *Coram Rege*, and *De Banco* Rolls, etc., in 60 volumes.

<sup>14</sup> Abstracts and Calendars with *Indices Locorum* (and occasionally *Nominum*) referring to Feet of Fines and *De Banco* Rolls, etc., in 37 volumes.

<sup>15</sup> Calendars, with *Indices Locorum* and *Nominum*, referring to the Patent Rolls, Close Rolls, Inquisitions *post mortem*, and other Chancery Records, in 153 volumes.

## III. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

BESIDES their obvious importance for the study of legal history, the judicial records included in this section are chiefly valuable for the light they throw upon the history of public administration and, in the absence of other adequate sources of information, upon contemporary social conditions. Apart from this use, they serve chiefly to provide material for occasional footnotes to history, for genealogical study, and such bypaths of learning. Their historical significance is greatest for the mediæval period and particularly for the early part of that period. With the creation of a vernacular literature, and with the accumulation of State papers and private correspondence and memoirs, judicial records, ever growing in bulk, lose increasingly their importance as sources of general history. As more accessible sources, Law Reports have the relative value of the early judicial Pleadings.

In the Middle Ages the Court constituted the ordinary machinery for administering the country, from its humblest aspect in the manor to its highest in Parliament;<sup>1</sup> every side of the daily life of the community was represented in the judicial proceedings of the courts, but with the decay of the manorial system at one end of the scale and the rise of the Secretariat and Departments of State at the other, the forms of administrative procedure for the most part change and lose their judicial aspect. The manor court has long been a mere survival; Forest Courts are for all practical purposes extinct; County Courts,<sup>2</sup> Hundred Courts and all sorts and conditions of

<sup>1</sup> *cf.* above, p. 50.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* under their ancient procedure.

local and special jurisdictions have been either swept away or superseded by new procedure. The Justices of the Peace, it is true, have not wholly lost the administrative powers with which they were definitely entrusted from the Tudor period onwards; but, with the exception perhaps of the Commissioners of Sewers, the administrative functions of no other judicial authority have been widened since the close of the mediæval period.

Importance must be attached especially to the records of the actual judicial proceedings of the courts, namely, the plea rolls or analogous documents. The subsidiary documents are for the most part of minor interest; some have been already noticed in another connection. Of those classified here, special mention may be made of the records of Fines which have a great antiquity and are much used for topographical and genealogical purposes.

The importance of the records of the central courts diminishes with the period of the Year Books. With the era of the modern Reports their interest is practically confined to notable trials, though original research is still necessary in the case of the records of the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts down to a comparatively recent date. For an earlier period the records of Justices Itinerant and other documents of the same class have been found to shed new light upon economic and social conditions, and the Assize Court records are a new source of information for Local History. Again, the early records of the Justices of the Peace are invaluable for an adequate understanding of the position of the agricultural community in the period following the Black Death, while the records of the Commissioners of Sewers (now wholly preserved in local custody), besides their value for historical topography, afford a considerable amount of information as to local administration and its relation to the central government.



## I. COURTS OF LAST RESORT.

The history and procedure of these Courts in early times, and the nature of their records, are still somewhat obscure. In fact, since the Judicature Act of 1873, the records are practically non-existent, their place being taken by the Law Reports, since the Court below conducts its own appeals.<sup>1</sup> In any case the later records are not of immediate historical interest, though, for the earlier period, those preserved at the House of Lords and the Privy Council Office, together with the proceedings of the extinct Court of Delegates, are of considerable value.<sup>2</sup> To these last might be added the cases heard in the Exchequer Chamber<sup>3</sup>; also in the Court of Arches, if the official nature of the latter records is established.

The Classified List of these records has been much abbreviated, in view both of the condition of the existing lists and the relative unimportance of the modern records.

**Classified List of the Records of Courts of Last Resort.***(a) House of Lords.*<sup>4</sup>

Year-bundles and Journals (17 C.→).

<sup>1</sup> *Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., p. 133.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Appx., pp. 90 sq.

<sup>3</sup> For these, see below, King's Bench Records (p. 68 *n.* 4); but the ancient departmental judicial committee, known as the "Court of Exchequer Chamber" and the Chancery Appeal Court, between 1857 and 1873, are not included here, as the records are preserved with those of the Courts of Exchequer and Chancery.

<sup>4</sup> *Viz.* Common Law or Equity appeals by Writ of error or petition and ordinary appeals since 1857 and 1873. These are preserved partly as originals in the year files of sessional papers, and partly in the Journals of the House (*Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., p. 132; see also the printed official Calendars of House of Lords Papers, and C. M. Andrews, *Guide to Materials for American History in the House of Lords*, etc.).

(b) Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.<sup>1</sup>  
Books, Registers, and Year Bundles (16 C.→).

(c) High Court of Delegates.<sup>2</sup>  
Originals and Inrolments (16 C.→).

(d) Court of Appeal (Supreme Court of Judicature).<sup>3</sup>  
Inrolments and Files.

(e) High Court of Justice<sup>4</sup> (King's Bench).  
Miscellaneous Books ; Miscellanea and *passim* (16-19 C.).

(f) Court of Criminal Appeal.<sup>5</sup>  
Registers and Files (1907→).

## 2. CENTRAL COURTS OF COMMON LAW AND EQUITY.

### A. THE KING'S COURT.

The nature and historical value of these records is well known and reference is made to them in the prefatory note to this Section. Reference is also made to certain outlying local records in Part II of this work (Section I).

<sup>1</sup> The judicial records are preserved in the shape of bound books of Appeal Cases, as entries in the Registers of the Council, and in bundles of miscellaneous papers (*Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., p. 92).

<sup>2</sup> Established by Act of 25 Henry VIII c. 19 as a Chancery Commission to deal with ecclesiastical appeals hitherto heard in the Papal Court. In 1566 Appeals from the High Court of Admiralty were taken here. The Court was abolished in 1832, and its jurisdiction transferred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in 1833. A summary list of the records is in the *Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., pp. 91-2.

<sup>3</sup> See above, prefatory note as to the records of this court.

<sup>4</sup> Appeals from Inferior Courts ; Proceedings in Error ; Exchequer Chamber Proceedings. Appeals since 1875 are transmitted from the Crown Office.

<sup>5</sup> The records (which are valuable) were preserved (in 1912) by the Registrar (*Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., p. 39). For earlier cases, see Home Office, Criminal Books, etc.

## (a) King's Bench.

King's Bench (Crown Side)—Curia Regis Rolls (1193-1272); Coram Rege Rolls (1272-1702)<sup>1</sup>; Crown Rolls (1702→)<sup>1</sup>; Controlment Rolls (1272→); Indictments (E. I—→)<sup>2</sup>; Baga de Secretis (1477-1813)<sup>3</sup>; Posteas (1728→); Rule Books (1589→).

King's Bench (Plea Side)—Plea Rolls (1702→)<sup>1</sup>; Judgments, etc., Entry Books of (1699→)<sup>4</sup>; Rules, Entry Books of (1603→).<sup>4</sup>

## (b) Common Pleas.

Common Pleas—Placita de Banco or Plea Rolls (1272→)<sup>5</sup>; Fines, Concords of (1558—W. IV); Fines, Feet of (R. I—W. IV); Fines, Notes of (E. I—W. IV); Extract Rolls or "King's Rolls" (E. I—H. IV); Posteas, Files of (1599→); Recovery Rolls (1583→); Remembrance Rolls (Prothonotaries'), (1524-1799).<sup>6</sup>

(c) Justices Itinerant, of Assize, of Labourers, of the Peace, and Oyer and Terminer (including Commissioners of Sewers).<sup>7</sup>

Chancery (P.B.O.)—Miscellanea; Laws of Sewers (1599-1831).

Exchequer—Miscellanea.

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Miscellaneous Books.

King's Bench (Plea Side)—Writs and Returns (Ancient), (E. I—Eliz.).

Records of Justices Itinerant, etc.—Eyre Rolls, Assize Rolls, etc. (J.—H. VIII); Gaol Delivery Rolls (E. I—Eliz.).

<sup>1</sup> Coram Rege Rolls contain entries of all proceedings both on the Civil and Crown sides. The Pleadings in Civil Cases were separated in 1702, from which date the two series of Crown Rolls and Plea Rolls commence. Some transcripts of early proceedings will be found in the Chancery and Exchequer Miscellanea.

<sup>2</sup> Include also Informations, etc., and early Coroner's Inquisitions, a valuable series.

<sup>3</sup> Records of proceedings in State Trials.

<sup>4</sup> The Plea Rolls being imperfect for the period subsequent to George II, these Entry Books are sometimes the sole record of the proceedings.

<sup>5</sup> After 25 Eliz. Common Recoveries, Proceedings in Real Actions, and Deeds Enrolled, are entered separately on the Recovery Rolls, prior to that date these are entered on the de Banco Rolls.

<sup>6</sup> Continued in the Secondaries' Series.

<sup>7</sup> As to these, see B. H. Putnam, *Statute of Labourers, Placitorum Abbreviatio*, and 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 98. Mention should be made here of the hitherto undescribed records of the Clerks of Assize (16-19 C.), and Central Criminal Court, the latter of which still possesses records of earlier date than its reorganization in 1834.

## B. THE COURT OF CHANCERY (AND ITS DEPARTMENTS).

The Records of the English Chancery on its judicial side<sup>1</sup> fall into two classes, the records of the Court as a Court of Equity and as a Court of Common Law.

### (a) Chancery Proceedings in Equity.

The gradual and obscure development of the Court of Equity makes it a matter of uncertainty from what period to date its records, but these can certainly be distinguished in or before the reign of Richard II. From this reign there is an unbroken series of Chancery Proceedings, growing more and more complex as time went on.

The constitution and establishment of the Court itself are clearly distinguished from those of the Courts of Common Law, and the Chancery Records are associated with the following functionaries.<sup>2</sup>

(i) The Masters to whom matters were referred for report and who had the custody of all documents and property connected with each suit.

(ii) The Six Clerks to each of whom certain cases were assigned and under whose names the records are still arranged.

(iii) The Registrars who were concerned with the decrees of the Court.

(iv) The Accountant-General (now Paymaster-General), who dealt with the Suitors' Funds from 1726 onwards.

The records may be roughly divided into five classes: Bills and Answers, Depositions, Affidavits, etc., Masters' Reports and Documents, Accounts, and Decrees. In addition to these there are the Registrars' Minute Books,

<sup>1</sup> For the Secretarial activities of the Chancery, *see* above, p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> Most of these are still in existence, but the Six Clerks were replaced by the Clerks of Records and Writs now a department of the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

and the Six Clerks' Cause Books and Bill Books, which form a species of index to the records.

The subjects with which these documents deal are very numerous, and the Chancery Records are specially important for every aspect of social and economic history. Among the earliest matters on which appeal was made to the Chancery was the enforcement of verbal contracts, and frauds of various kinds, for the redress of which the process of the Common Law Courts was insufficient. From the first, also, the Chancery took cognizance of trusts, and, therefore, of all questions relating to charitable endowments, marriage settlements, etc. ; similarly it was concerned with actions on accounts. In addition to these, fresh business continually fell into the hands of Chancery as new circumstances arose, through legislation or economic and political developments.

From the middle of the 17th century a great collection of Documents began to accrue as unclaimed Exhibits<sup>1</sup> in various suits and these will some day form a new and copious source of contemporary information.

### **Classified List of Chancery Proceedings in Equity.**

- Chancery Proceedings (R. II→).
- Chancery Depositions (Eliz.→).
- Awards and Agreements (1694→).
- Affidavits<sup>2</sup> (1611→).
- Registers of Affidavits (1615-1746).
- Decrees and Orders (1545→).
- Decree Rolls (1535→).
- Docquets of Enrolled Decrees (1535→).
- Depositions, Town<sup>3</sup> (1535→).
- Depositions, Country<sup>4</sup> (1558-1714).

<sup>1</sup> Documents of the Chancery Court and Chancery Masters.

<sup>2</sup> Most of these have been scheduled for destruction. Though containing incidentally matters of historical interest they are not a profitable source of reference, but the Registers are of more practical use than the originals on file.

<sup>3</sup> Arranged alphabetically.

<sup>4</sup> Afterwards included in Proceedings.

Depositions, Unpublished (J. I—Vict.).

Petitions—Lord Chancellors' Petition Books (1756→); Ordinary and Appeal Petitions (1774→); Charity Petitions (1836-1845→).

Registrars' Minute Books (1630→).

(b) Chancery Proceedings on the Common Law Side.

Chancery, as a Court of Common Law, has a contemporaneous existence with the Chancellor's Court of Equity. Gradually, as the latter developed, it appeared that certain cases within the jurisdiction of the Chancellor could and ought to be settled by Common Law. These were not cases which came within the equitable consideration of the Chancellor because the Common Law had failed to find a remedy. They were suits commenced by a writ, not a petition, and the forms of Common Law were observed throughout. The records date back to the beginning of the reign of Edward I.

The causes dealt with by this procedure included pleadings on writs of *Scire Facias* to repeal letters patent, etc.; also an interesting class of cases relating to recognizances, including those made under the Statutes Merchant or Staple.

The records generally issued from the Petty Bag Office.

The history of the Common Law Side of Chancery has received little attention, but considerable historical information may be obtained from this source. The records themselves are classified simply as "Chancery Common Law Pleadings," after the ancient title, *Placita in Cancellaria*.<sup>1</sup>

**Classified List of Chancery Common Law Proceedings.**

*Originals.*<sup>2</sup>

Chancery (P.B.O., Tower and Rolls Chapel Series)—Proceedings on Writs of *Scire Facias*, etc. (E. I→).

<sup>1</sup> In three series extending from the reign of Edward III to that of Queen Victoria.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. D.K. 4 Report, Appx. (II), p. 113, and above, pp. 35-36.

*Inrolments.*

Chancery—Common Law Proceedings, Remembrance Rolls (Eliz.—G. III).

Lord Chamberlain's Department—Recognizance Rolls<sup>1</sup> (H. VIII—G. III).

## C. THE EXCHEQUER (AND ITS DEPARTMENTS).

The judicial records of the Exchequer fall into three groups<sup>2</sup>: (i) The records of Revenue causes, (ii) the records of Common Law causes, (iii) the records of Equity causes.

(i) The jurisdiction of the Exchequer in Revenue causes is concerned with all matters arising between the Crown and the taxpayer, or between the Crown and its accountants. The traditional procedure was known as the *Cursus Scaccarii*, a combination of Common Law and Equity forms.

(ii) The jurisdiction of the Exchequer of Pleas began from the end of the 13th century to compete with the Common Law Courts, in spite of the efforts made to restrict its activities to causes in which the King or an Exchequer official was concerned.<sup>3</sup>

(iii) Although possessed of some equitable powers derived from the *Cursus Scaccarii*, the Court of Exchequer did not assume a general equitable jurisdiction until Tudor times. This equitable jurisdiction was transferred in 1842 to the Court of Chancery. Appeals on the Equity side lay to the House of Lords, and on the Common Law and Revenue sides to the Court of Exchequer Chamber.

A description of the Revenue Records of the Exchequer has been given above under the heading of Administrative Proceedings (Accounts).

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 36.

<sup>2</sup> W. S. Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, Vol. I, p. 198.

<sup>3</sup> Madox, *History of the Exchequer*, Vol. I, Ch. VI.

**Classified List of Proceedings of the Court of Exchequer.**

Court of Exchequer<sup>1</sup>—Miscellanea (13-15 C.).

Exchequer of Pleas—Jews' Plea Rolls (3 H. III—15 E. I); Miscellaneous Books (1616→); Plea Rolls (H. III→).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Ecclesiastical Documents<sup>2</sup> (H. III—J. I); Entry Books of Proceedings on Trials of the Pyx (1603→); Exchequer Proceedings (H. III—Anne); Memoranda Rolls (1216→); Miscellaneous Books (13-19 C.); Special Commissions and Returns (Eliz.→); Bills, Answers, and Depositions (Eliz.→); Decrees and Orders<sup>3</sup> (Eliz.→); Depositions<sup>3</sup> (Eliz.→); Reports and Certificates (1648→).

Exchequer (K.R., Revenue Side)—Miscellaneous Papers in Revenue Cases (18 C.).

Exchequer (L.T.R.)—Memoranda Rolls (H. III→).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Miscellaneous Books (14-16 C.).

Exchequer (A.O.)—Proceedings and Misc. Bks.<sup>4</sup> (H. VIII—Ed. VI).

Exchequer (F.F. and T.)—Plea Rolls (P. and M.—G. III).

**3. ORDINARY COURTS OF LOCAL JURISDICTION.**

Generally, none of the records of these purely local courts were transmitted to the repositories of the central courts for custody, and the records mentioned below must be regarded as a fragmentary and casual series. It must be remembered, however, that even the records of the King's Court were only extracted from the justices with some difficulty; and a great part of the proceedings in Eyre or on Assize is missing, both for the earlier and later periods. Similarly, although a certain portion of the records of the proceedings of the Forest Eyres has been transmitted into the Chancery and Exchequer, these records are more rarely found in the later mediæval period, while from the 16th century onwards, they seem

<sup>1</sup> For Court Rolls of Crown Manors or other Franchizes deposited, *see* below, Special Collections and Departmental Records.

<sup>2</sup> Transcripts of proceedings in various courts relating to ecclesiastical matters, and of documents touching possession of Church lands and tithes.

<sup>3</sup> In several series.

<sup>4</sup> Decrees, orders, and depositions of the Court of Augmentations.



to have been retained by the Chief Justices in Eyre, whose criminal jurisdiction, however, had already fallen into disuse.

Specimens of other local judicial records, especially for the coroner's courts, may be found amongst the Public Records. Transcripts of others, such as County and Hundred Courts, are occasionally found amongst the County *Placita* (now described and classified as "Transcripts of Records"). The most numerous records of local jurisdictions, those of the manor courts and other franchises, are dealt with below under "Seignorial Jurisdictions".

### Classified List of Local Judicial Records.

#### (a) Coroners' Courts.

Chancery—Miscellanea (Transcripts of Records).

King's Bench (Crown Side)—Coroners' Inquisitions (1748-67); Coroners' Inquisitions on Prisoners (1747→); Indictments (13-19 C.).

Records of Justices Itinerant, etc.—Coroners' Rolls (H. III—H. V).<sup>1</sup>

#### (b) Forest Courts.

Chancery—Forest Proceedings (C. I.); Miscellanea (Forests), (John—H. VIII); Miscellanea (Transcripts of Records); Swainmote Court Rolls (1548-1639).

Exchequer (K.R.)—Forest Proceedings (H. III—C. I).

Exchequer (T. of R.)—Forest Proceedings (H. III—C. II).

Palatinate of Chester—Forest Rolls (1270-1503).

Duchy of Lancs.—Forest Proceedings (H. III—G. III).

Special Collections—Court Rolls<sup>2</sup> (*passim*).

#### (c) County and Hundred Courts.

Chancery—Miscellanea (Transcripts of Records).

King's Bench (Plea Side)—Writs and Returns (Ancient).

Special Collections—Court Rolls (*passim*).

#### (d) Inferior Courts of Record.<sup>3</sup>

Chancery—Miscellanea (Transcripts of Records).

King's Bench (Plea Side)—Miscellaneous Books; Writs and Returns.

Special Collections—Court Rolls (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> Ed. Selden Society.

<sup>2</sup> Swainmotes, woodmotes, etc.

<sup>3</sup> *e.g.* Borough Courts, including Staple Courts, Courts Merchant, Courts of Piepowder, Stannary Courts, Courts of Survey, Courts of Liberties, etc.

#### 4. PALATINATE AND DUCHY COURTS AND SEIGNORIAL FRANCHIZES.

The various honours, liberties, or sokes, which have at one time or another exercised an independent jurisdiction, would include several that no longer possess any such rights. Amongst these there are still several sokes or liberties which have a separate existence.<sup>1</sup> There are still more, however, whose special jurisdictions have lapsed, or are represented only by an Inferior Court of Record, or an archaic Manor Court. None of the above, including the royal Honour of Peveril, have usually been regarded as palatinates. That title is generally reserved for the great honours annexed to the Crown, or resumed in later times, excluding the exceptional jurisdictions of the lords marchers.

It will be seen, from the classified lists which follow, that few records of these jurisdictions are now preserved in official custody.

#### Classified List of the Judicial Records of Palatinate and Duchy Courts.

- (a) Principality of Wales<sup>2</sup>—Decrees, etc. (A.—W. IV); Docket Rolls (H. VIII—W. IV); Fines (E. VI—W. IV); Miscellanea (H. VIII—W. IV); Pleadings (W. III—W. IV); Plea Rolls<sup>3</sup> (H. VIII—1830); Prothonotaries' Papers<sup>4</sup> (H. VIII—1659); Ruthin Records<sup>5</sup> (E. III—C. I).

<sup>1</sup> For the whole subject, see Webb, *Parish and County*, 313 sq.

<sup>2</sup> See Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. XL.; *List of Records of the Palatinates and the Principality of Wales*, 1914, Introduction.

<sup>3</sup> See Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, Nos. IV. and XL. The mediæval records of the Justices of North and South Wales are incorporated in the General Series of Assize Rolls, etc.

<sup>4</sup> For these and similar records in the preceding class, see 1912 Report, p. 43, and Appx., p. 157 sq.

<sup>5</sup> Now transferred to Special Collections, Court Rolls. For the later portion of this Series, see 1912 Report, Appx., p. 146 sq.

*(b) Duchy of Cornwall.*

Early records were not preserved at the Duchy Council Offices in London, as at the Duchy of Lancaster, but were deposited in the Exchequer Treasuries at Westminster, and were merged in the contents of those repositories, afterwards transferred to the Public Record Office (*see* above, p. 47, *n.* 8). For the fate of the records of the ancient Stannary Courts, *see* 1914 Report, Appx., p. 69. For the Departmental Records still preserved at the Duchy Offices, *see* 1914 Report, Appx., p. 1731.

*(c) Palatinate of Chester*<sup>1</sup>—Calendar Rolls (E. III—H. VIII); Causes, Papers in (H. VII—W. IV); Certiorari, Returns on (H. VI—C. II); Coroners' Inquisitions (E. III→); Crown Books (Eliz.—W. IV); Decrees and Orders (Original and Entry Books), (Eliz.—G. IV); Depositions (16 C.→); Eyre Rolls<sup>2</sup> (E. I—W. IV); Fines, Feet of (E. I—W. IV); Forest Proceedings<sup>3</sup> (H. III—H. VII); Gaol Files, Writs, etc. (E. III—W. IV); Indictment Rolls<sup>4</sup> (E. I—H. VII); Mainprise Rolls (E. III—H. VIII); Miscellanea<sup>5</sup> (E. II—W. IV); Outlawry Rolls (E. IV—E. V); Pleadings (H. VIII—G. IV); Pleadings on Paper (Eliz.—G. III); Plea Rolls—Chester<sup>4</sup> (H. III—W. IV); Prothonotaries' Papers<sup>6</sup> (H. VIII—1659); *Quo Warranto* Rolls<sup>4</sup> (E. III—H. VII); Rule Books and Minute Books (Eliz.—W. IV).

*(d) Duchy of Lancaster*<sup>7</sup>—Affidavits, Reports, Certificates, Orders, Petitions, etc. (Eliz.—1800); Assize Rolls (E. III); Bills and Answers, Depositions, etc. (H. VII→); Decrees and Orders (E. IV→); Decrees (Draft), (H. VIII—G. I); Depositions, Examinations, etc. (Eliz.—G. II); Miscellanea (14-18 C.).

<sup>1</sup> *See* Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. XL.; *List of Records of the Palatinates and the Principality of Wales*, 1914, Introduction.

<sup>2</sup> *See* Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, Nos. IV. and XL.

<sup>3</sup> *See* also Exchequer (T. of R.), Forest Proceedings in Cheshire; Public Record Office (*Lists and Indexes*, No. IV.); Chester Eyre Rolls (*Lists and Indexes*, No. XIV.); Duchy of Lancaster, Forest Proceedings.

<sup>4</sup> Including Flint; *see* Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. IV.

<sup>5</sup> Proceedings of the Sessions and Exchequer of Chester.

<sup>6</sup> For these and similar records in the preceding class, *see* *First Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, p. 43, and Appx. (II), p. 157 *sq.*; (III), p. 131 *sq.*

<sup>7</sup> For Courts of Great Barmote (Mineral), *see* below, p. 103.

- Palatinate of Lancaster (Clerk of the Crown)—Assize Rolls <sup>1</sup> (H. VI→); Coroners' Inquisitions (C. II—G. IV); Indictments, Writs of Assize, etc. (H. VI—H. VIII); Indictments, etc. (H. VIII—W. IV); Minute Books (Crown Office), (J. II→).
- Palatinate of Lancaster (Prothonotary)—Feet of Fines, Concords, etc. (1362—W. IV); Fines, Enrolments of <sup>2</sup> (Eliz.—W. IV); Plea Rolls (H. IV→); Remembrance Books (W. III—G. II); Sessional Papers <sup>3</sup> (H. VIII→).
- Palatinate of Lancaster (Chancery)—Answers (E. IV→); Appearance Books (1641-1703); Bill Books (E. IV—1734); Bills (H. VII→); Decrees and Orders, etc. (H. VIII—1784); Interrogatories, Depositions, and Examinations (Eliz.→); Replications, Demurrers, Exceptions, etc. (1601→).
- Palatinate of Durham <sup>4</sup> (Clerk of the Crown)—Indictments (1713→); Indictment Books (1753→); Minute Books (1770-84).
- Palatinate of Durham (Prothonotary)—Declarations and other Pleadings (C. II→); Fines, Feet of (E. VI—1834), Judgment Rolls (H. VII).
- Palatinate of Durham (Chancery)—Affidavits (Registrars'), (1657→); Bills, Answers, etc. (Registrars'), (1576→); Commissions, Interrogatories, and Depositions (Registrars'), (1560→); Halmote Court Books (1349-1619); Interrogatories and Depositions (Cursitors'), (1673-1768); Orders and Decrees, Entry Books of (Registrars'), (1633→); Orders, Decrees, and Reports (Original), (1613-1778); Significavits (1700-65).

In addition to the above the Bishopric of Ely was virtually a palatinate by reason of the well-defined *Jura Regalia* enjoyed by the bishop.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, these liberties were resumed by Act of Parliament, like those of the Bishopric of Durham, the records being scheduled for transmission to the Public Record Office, with those

<sup>1</sup> For early Eyre and Assize Rolls of County of Lancaster, see General Series of Eyre and Assize Rolls (P.R.O.), *Lists and Indexes*, IV., 1894.

<sup>2</sup> Before 29 Eliz. the Fines are enrolled on the Plea Rolls.

<sup>3</sup> These contain Original Issues, Affidavits, and other pleadings in Common Pleas suits at Lancaster.

<sup>4</sup> For these records, see *Reports of Royal Commission on Public Records* (1910-1919).

<sup>5</sup> Webb, *op. cit.* p. 310 sq.

of Durham, under the Public Record Office Act of 1838. This removal has not yet been carried out.<sup>1</sup> In the meantime the records are well kept, and are accessible, an excellent catalogue having been prepared by the Episcopal Registrar.<sup>2</sup> As matters stand, they are practically in the nature of local records, and will be mentioned as such below.<sup>3</sup>

### Classified List of the Records of Courts of Seignorial Jurisdiction.<sup>4</sup>

Chancery—Miscellanea<sup>5</sup> (13-15 C.).

Chancery Masters' Documents<sup>6</sup> (14-18 C.).

Exchequer (various Departments).<sup>7</sup>

Palatinate of Durham—Halmote Court Books (14-17 C.).

Honour of Peveril—Pleadings<sup>8</sup> (17-19 C.).

Departmental Records—Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Court Rolls (13-19 C.); Admiralty, Greenwich Hospital, Court Rolls (13-19 C.).

Special Collections—Court Rolls<sup>9</sup> (13-17 C.).

State Papers (Domestic and Supplementary).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See 1912 Report, Appx. (II), p. 15; 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 142; and 1919 Report, p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> A. Gibbons (1891); see 1914 Report, Appx., p. 39. <sup>3</sup> P. 179.

<sup>4</sup> Including franchises annexed to the Crown lands and other franchises temporarily in the possession of the Crown. The latter class of records is represented by deposits or exhibits, chiefly in connexion with feudal incidents. The complementary records should be found still in local custody. They include many different types.

<sup>5</sup> Chiefly transcripts of records returned for the information of superior courts.

<sup>6</sup> Some of these have been placed in the General Series (Special Collections); others are still amongst these Documents which are not open to inspection. (See 1912 Report, Appx. (II), p. 24, and 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 134.)

<sup>7</sup> Numerous Court Rolls inrolled.

<sup>8</sup> No early records of this Court have been transmitted into official custody. The existing records are of purely local interest.

<sup>9</sup> Including the series formerly preserved in the Duchy of Lancaster and Palatinates of Chester and Wales. Those for the Palatinate of Ely are still outstanding. (See Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, No. VI.)

<sup>10</sup> Occasional specimens.

## 5. COURTS OF CIVIL AND CANON LAW.

Although the Probate and Divorce Court Acts of 1857 and 1858, supplemented by the Judicature Act of 1873, consolidated most of the divergent jurisdictions in ecclesiastical causes, the ancient jurisdiction of the Admiralty and Ecclesiastical Courts is still represented by a distinctive procedure, and copious records based upon the practice of the Civil and Canon Law respectively.<sup>1</sup>

## A. HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

In the early mediæval period the exercise of maritime jurisdiction was closely supervised by the Crown, so that records of cases during this period must be looked for amongst the records of the Chancery and Courts of Common Law. Eventually, a separate court to deal with piracy and other maritime cases was established, and, in time, became known as the High Court of Admiralty.<sup>2</sup> The period of its greatest expansion was during the reign of Henry VIII, when separate records began to be kept. Its jurisdiction consisted (besides commissions of Oyer and Terminer for piracies, etc.) of ordinary or Instance and Prize jurisdiction respectively. Appeals in Instance causes went to the High Court of Delegates, and from the latter to the House of Lords. Now they go before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

## B. HIGH COURT OF DELEGATÈS.

During the mediæval period the ecclesiastical courts administering Canon Law were quite distinct from the King's Court. A whole "hierarchy of courts" arose

<sup>1</sup> See below, pp. 134 and 164.

<sup>2</sup> The Court of the Lord High Admiral or his deputy had customary jurisdiction defined in the reign of Richard II (Selden Society, *Select Pleas in the High Court of Admiralty*, Vol. I, Introduction).

to deal with ecclesiastical causes, and final appeal lay to the Papal Court. After the Reformation, while the organization of the ecclesiastical courts remained the same, the King replaced the Pope in cases of appeal. For this purpose the High Court of Delegates was created in 1533, and maritime causes were annexed to its jurisdiction in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.<sup>1</sup> In 1832 this Court was abolished,<sup>2</sup> and its jurisdiction passed to the new Judicial Committee of the Privy Council,<sup>3</sup> but most of its records were transferred to the Public Record Office from the Admiralty Registry.

### C. ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

The extent and nature of ecclesiastical jurisdiction are described in the report of the Ecclesiastical Courts Commission in 1883 (Historical Appendix); but it has undergone considerable change since then. Testamentary and matrimonial causes were or could be transferred from the Prerogative and Peculiar Courts to the civil courts of Probate and Divorce from 1857, and those jurisdictions were merged (by the Judicature Act of 1873) in the High Court of Justice. These changes have led to a considerable dispersal of the records. As, however, the metropolitan records are not in State custody, no classification of their contents will be attempted here, but the existing courts with their repositories have been noticed in another part of this work. Reference may also be made to the valuable materials for this purpose in the *Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records*.<sup>4</sup> The procedure of the Courts Christian is illustrated by many documents amongst the Public Records, especially in the series of Chancery and

<sup>1</sup> 8 Eliz., c. 5.

<sup>2</sup> 2 and 3 William IV, c. 92.

<sup>3</sup> 3 and 4 William IV, c. 41.

<sup>4</sup> 1914 Report, Appx. (II), 91 *seq.* 199 *seq.*

Exchequer "Ecclesiastical Documents" and the "Significavits" amongst the Chancery Files.<sup>1</sup>

### Classified List of Records of the High Courts of Admiralty and Delegates.

#### A. High Court of Admiralty.<sup>2</sup>

- (a) Instance and Prize Records—Examinations (1536-1749); Interrogatories (1546-1733); Libels, etc. (1519-1814); Sentences (1643→); Instance Papers (1629→); Assignment Books (1671→); Act Books (1524-1786); Prize Papers (1636→); Letters of Marque (1549-1815).
- (b) Prize Appeal Records—Appeal Papers (1689→); Sentences 1672→); Assignment Books (1689→); Acts (1689-1813).
- (c) Proceedings in Vice-Admiralty Courts (1636→).
- (d) Oyer and Terminer Records (1535-1834).
- (e) Miscellanea (1547→).

#### B. High Court of Delegates.

Assignment Books (1650-1829); Examinations (1559-1735); Sentences (1585-1757); Processes (copies of Proceedings), (1609-1834); Acts (1538-1756); Cause Papers (1600-1834); Case Books (1796-1834); Miscellanea (1636-1837).

#### C. Privy Council Office.<sup>3</sup>

Appeals (Papers, etc.), (1834→).

## 6. SPECIAL JURISDICTIONS.

The Courts included in this division are those which for some time exercised a jurisdiction independent of the Courts at Westminster, exclusive of the Palatine jurisdictions which have been mentioned elsewhere.

### A. HOUSEHOLD COURTS.

(a) *The Palace Courts (Marshalsea, Verge, Palace and Green Cloth).*—The old Household Court (Placita Aulæ) was established as a Court of record under James I,

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. of Royal Historical Society*, 3rd Series, Vol. VIII., p. 113.

<sup>2</sup> There are many gaps in the series of these records, which comprise numerous diplomatic documents. (*See above*, p. 29.)

<sup>3</sup> *See* 1914 Report, *loc. cit.*



with the title of the Court of the Verge,<sup>1</sup> this again was reconstituted as the Palace Court in 1630.<sup>2</sup> The pleadings in the Marshal's Court date back to the 13th century and those of the Verge to the reign of James I. These Courts were abolished in 1849.<sup>3</sup>

The Board of Green Cloth had practically superseded the Marshal's Court for domestic purposes since the 16th century, the Courts of Record above mentioned being chiefly occupied with litigation carried on by local suitors.<sup>4</sup> With the records of these Courts are associated those transferred from the Marshalsea Prison. The surviving records of the Board of Green Cloth are partly in private custody, but a few will be found amongst the records of the department of the Lord Steward of the Royal Household. Others of more importance seem to have been removed and are now in the Bodleian Library.

(b) *Court of Chivalry*.—From the reign of Richard II this Court has been merely the Earl Marshal's Court of Honour for deciding questions of precedence and pedigree, especially the right to bear arms. Its functions are exercised by the Chapter of the Officers of Arms sitting in the Heralds' College, where the records are preserved.<sup>5</sup>

(c) *Court of Claims*.—The various claims to perform services, etc., at royal coronations were heard on these occasions. It was by nature irregular and occasional, and its proceedings are incomplete. Their interest is chiefly heraldic and genealogical. Some records chiefly

<sup>1</sup> 21 James I, c. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Pat. 6 Car. I, Part 9, No. 2.

<sup>3</sup> 12 and 13 Vict., c. 101.

<sup>4</sup> Like the Courts of Conscience, etc., prior to the County Courts Act, 1846.

<sup>5</sup> The records of the Officers at Arms are regarded as being in their custody as a professional corporation. The same claim is made by the Household Troops as a matter of privilege.

in the nature of precedents are preserved in the custody of the Lord Great Chamberlain at Westminster Palace.<sup>1</sup>

### B. COURTS MARTIAL.

Like the Ecclesiastical Courts, the Courts Martial occupy a somewhat anomalous position, having no relationship with the Common Law of the land.<sup>2</sup> Their procedure most nearly approaches that of the Admiralty Court and the Courts of the Earl Marshal.<sup>3</sup> The authority for these courts was defined by statutes,<sup>4</sup> and their jurisdiction is now supervised by the War Office. In the case of Naval Courts Martial, the proceedings have always been regulated by the Board of Admiralty which succeeded to the office of Lord High Admiral in 1689, and the records of the Naval Courts Martial have also been preserved with the Admiralty Records. On the other hand, the decisions of the Military Courts Martial have always been submitted to the Sovereign by the Secretary of State for War, for approval and confirmation; but the records have always been in the custody of the Judge Advocate-General, in whose office the surviving records were found by the Royal Commission on Public Records.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 167. The proceedings of the Court of the Lord High Steward are included among the records of the House of Lords.

<sup>2</sup> See Anson, *Law of the Constitution* (Crown), II, 182 and 186 *n.* (3rd ed.).

<sup>3</sup> See p. 29 *n.* and 1914 Report, p. 49; Appx. (II), p. 166; Appx. (III), p. 26.

<sup>4</sup> *cf.* Acts of 13 Car. II, c. 9, and 29 and 30 Vict., c. 109.

<sup>5</sup> These date from the reign of Charles II, see *Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx. (III), No. 21. They have now been transferred to the Public Record Office. Some use seems to have been made of these records by Captain H. James for his *Collection of Cases* (1820).

## C. STATUTORY COURTS.

(a) *Court of Requests*.—This court was established in the reign of King Henry VII for the relief of poor debtors but was chiefly used by privileged suitors. It was virtually abolished in 1641.<sup>1</sup> For a description of the procedure of the Court, reference should be made to the authorities mentioned in the footnote.<sup>2</sup>

(b) *Court of Star Chamber*.—This Court was traditionally established in 1487<sup>3</sup> for dealing with local disturbances and discontent. It was abolished in 1641.<sup>1</sup> Practically only the subsidiary proceedings have survived. For the procedure of the Court reference should be made to the authorities mentioned in the Introduction to the work given in the footnote.<sup>4</sup>

(c) *Court of Wards and Liveries*.—This Court was established in 1540<sup>5</sup> to administer the feudal Wardships of the Crown and a year later<sup>6</sup> it was empowered to take cognizance of Liveries of Seisin.<sup>7</sup>

(d) *Court of Augmentations*.—This Court was erected in 1535<sup>8</sup> to administer the estates of the dissolved monasteries. It was dissolved in 1546, and reconstituted to avoid conflict with the ordinary jurisdiction of the Exchequer.<sup>9</sup> The new Court was abolished in 1554.<sup>10</sup> In the reign of Elizabeth a compromise was effected by

<sup>1</sup> 16 Car. I, c. 10. It was revived in 1660.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Julius Cæsar, *The Ancient State, etc., of the Court of Requests* (1596); *Select Cases in the Court of Requests*, ed. I. S. Leadam (Selden Society): Introduction.

<sup>3</sup> 3 H. VII, c. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Select Cases in the Court of Star Chamber*, ed. I. S. Leadam (Selden Society).

<sup>5</sup> 32 H. VIII, c. 46.

<sup>6</sup> 33 H. VIII, c. 22.

<sup>7</sup> See Thomas, *Handbook*, p. 311 sq.

<sup>8</sup> 27 H. VIII, c. 27.

<sup>9</sup> Pat. 38 H. VIII, p. 5, No. 45.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Mar., c. 10.

which the Court became a department<sup>1</sup> of the Exchequer, dealing specially with the audit of the Land Revenue. Its records are now classified with those of the Court of Exchequer.

(e) *Court of General Surveyors*.—This Court was erected by an Act of 1541<sup>2</sup> for the administration of the Land Revenue of the Crown. The Court was dissolved by proclamation in 1546,<sup>3</sup> and by Act of Parliament in 1553.<sup>4</sup> Thenceforth it was partly merged in the Augmentation Office of the Exchequer, but its main functions were continued in the Office of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, replacing the Surveyors-General of Woods<sup>5</sup> and of the Land Revenues.

(f) *Court of First Fruits and Tenths*.—Like the Courts of Augmentation and General Surveyors, this Court, which was erected in 1540,<sup>6</sup> was dissolved by Queen Mary,<sup>7</sup> and, though revived in the next reign,<sup>8</sup> became practically a department of the Exchequer.<sup>9</sup> In later times it has been associated with the statutory authority charged with the administration of Queen Anne's Bounty,<sup>10</sup> which has still the custody of records.

(g) *The Court of High Commission for Ecclesiastical*

<sup>1</sup> Augmentation Office. See Thomas, F. S., *History of Public Departments*, p. 95 sq.

<sup>2</sup> 33 H. VIII, c. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Pat. 38 H. VIII, Part 5, No. 45.

<sup>4</sup> 7 Edw. VI, c. 2.

<sup>5</sup> As to the loss of these records, see *Third Report of the Commission on Woods, Forests, etc.* (1787→), p. 25. For further details of the records, see Thomas, *Handbook*, pp. 266-7, and for the records still preserved in the Office of H.M. Woods, etc., see 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 248 sq.

<sup>6</sup> 32 H. VIII, c. 45.

<sup>7</sup> 2 and 3 Ph. Mar., c. 4.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Eliz., c. 4.

<sup>9</sup> Office of First Fruits and Tenths.

<sup>10</sup> 2 and 3 Anne, c. 20. The Office of First Fruits and Tenths was abolished by the Act of 1 Vict., c. 20, and the records were deposited in the Bounty Office, whence most of them have been transferred to the Record Office.

*Causes.*<sup>1</sup>—As to this court, see the authorities given in the Appendix. Its constitution somewhat resembles that of the Court of Delegates. Besides the records mentioned by various writers, some proceedings have been preserved as returns to writs of *Certiorari*.

(*h*) *The Council of the North.*—Established in 1537, and remaining in force till 1641. Much information as to its powers and procedure has been recently discovered, but no official records survive.<sup>2</sup>

(*i*) *The Council of the Lord President of Wales and the Marches.*<sup>3</sup>—Established probably before the reign of Henry VII, and exercising an extensive jurisdiction from the next reign to 1641. It was revived in 1660.

### Classified List of Records of Special Jurisdictions.

(*a*) Household Courts.—Marshalsea Court—Plea Rolls (E. I—H. IV).  
Court of the Verge—Plea Rolls (J.—C. I).

Board of Green Cloth—Ld. Stewards' Records, Misc. Bks. (1598-1815).

Palace Court—Plea Rolls (1629-1849); Pleint Books (1686-1849).

Court of Chivalry—Chanc. Misc. Bdle. 6; S.P. Dom, 154, 185, 217 (R. II—C. I).

Court of Claims—K.R. Misc. Book, No. 2, Lord Chamberlain's Records; Lord Great Chamberlain's Records (H. III—G. V).

(*b*) Courts Martial.—War Office—Judge Advocate-General's Records (C. II→).

(*c*) Statutory Courts.—

Court of Star Chamber—Proceedings (H. VII—1641).

Court of Requests—Proceedings, Misc. Books, 1-208 (H. VII—C. I).

Court of Wards and Liveries—Pleadings,<sup>4</sup> etc. (H. VIII—C. I).

Court of General Surveyors—Proceedings,<sup>5</sup> etc. (H. VIII).

Court of Augmentations—Proceedings, etc. (H. VIII—Eliz.).

Court of First Fruits and Tenths—Plea Rolls (H. VIII—J. II).

<sup>1</sup> G. W. Prothero, *Select Statutes*, etc.: H. Gee and W. J. Hardy, "Documents, etc., of English Church History".

<sup>2</sup> See R. R. Reid, *Royal Historical Society Transactions* (N.S.), XX.

<sup>3</sup> See C. A. J. Skeel, *The Council of the Marches of Wales*, and *Trans. Cymmrodorion Soc.*, 1916-17; *cf.* 1912 Report, Appx. (II), p. 149 *sq.*

<sup>4</sup> "Miscellaneous Books" (*e.g.* Nos. 84-113, 241, 244, 514-561).

<sup>5</sup> *cf.* Miscellaneous Books (A.O.) Nos. 106, 130-133, 313B.

## IV. MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS.

IN accordance with the structural plan of classification adopted in this work, the present section contains documents which cannot be classed in any one of the preceding sections. From another point of view, such documents may be regarded as not having an official origin; that is to say, they were not composed for the purpose, and therefore in the form of Diplomata, Accounts, Surveys, etc. Many of these miscellaneous documents were probably deposited in the courts or with the officials themselves; others were compiled for the purpose of elucidating the contents of the records. Of this nature are numerous Lists or Indexes and similar compilations, together with a quantity of semi-official memoranda. Finally, the origin of a considerable proportion of these unusual forms can be accounted for in connexion with the forfeiture of estates to the Crown or its debtors and accountants. It would be difficult to compile a comprehensive list of these miscellaneous records, but the documents classified in the following list can be clearly distinguished. There are, of course, others which have no historical purport or interest. No attempt has been made to indicate the precise distribution of these documents; but they appear to occur less frequently amongst Central than amongst Local Records and most noticeably amongst the *Miscellanea* of the Chancery and Exchequer, the "Exhibits" of the Court of Chancery,<sup>1</sup> and the State Papers<sup>2</sup> and Departmental Records in the shape of "Inclosures".

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Chancery Masters' Documents and Six Clerks' Records.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* State Papers Supplementary.

**Classified Types of Miscellaneous Records.**

- (1) Documents subsidiary to records.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) Semi-official or private compilations connected with the elucidation of records.<sup>2</sup>
- (3) Semi-official or private compilations unconnected with the custody of records.<sup>3</sup>
- (4) Original compositions or transcripts of a literary nature.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Notes, Memoranda, and Reports other than those constructed according to definite formulas.

<sup>2</sup> Lists, Indexes, and Tables, but some of these are used as Nominal Lists (*see* pp. 54-55).

<sup>3</sup> Genealogies and political notes: Exhibits in Chancery suits and Archives of forfeited estates, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Histories, treatises, poems, diaries, etc.





PART II  
LOCAL RECORDS



## PART II.

# A SURVEY OF LOCAL RECORDS.

### I. PUBLIC RECORDS IN LOCAL REPOSITORIES.

#### A. DESCRIPTIVE NOTE.

ALTHOUGH by the provisions of the Public Record Office Act of 1838, reinforced by the Order in Council of 5th March, 1852,<sup>1</sup> all the judicial and administrative records of England and Wales were placed under the charge of the Master of the Rolls, many of these have never been transferred to the Public Record Office, and, in most cases, there has never been any intention of removing them from the local repositories. The records in question are therefore still preserved in various provincial registries or branches of the central courts or departments in London.<sup>2</sup> In addition to these, the documents preserved in the ordinary Courts of Local Jurisdiction will have to be considered here.

Some of the above records, such as those preserved in the registries of the High Court of Justice, have merely an official, legal, or personal interest, and, in most cases, they are not preserved for more than a few years after date.<sup>3</sup> Others, however, are of early date and considerable historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> 1912 Report, p. 3 *sq.*, and Appx. (II), pp. 1-3.

<sup>2</sup> 1914 Report, p. 5 *sq.*, and Appx. (II), *passim*.

<sup>3</sup> 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 133, 142, and Public Record Office *Rules and Schedules*, 1877-1913, pp. 208, 210, 508.

The records of Special and Ordinary Courts of Local Jurisdiction are less directly under the control of the central authorities. These records are not actually of much historical value, though County Courts and Coroners' Courts have some interest in connexion with the earlier history of those ancient institutions.<sup>1</sup> These courts are enumerated in the Classified List that follows. The most important of the local judicial records are, undoubtedly, to be found amongst the municipal (Inferior Courts of Record) and county (Quarter Sessions) records, although both series are unfortunately incomplete. The records of the local ecclesiastical courts and various statutory committees or trusts will be referred to elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

It was originally intended to compile a list of the local authorities under the respective control or supervision of certain Government Departments in an Appendix, but although this is a subject of considerable interest, the constitutional theory is sufficiently stated in textbooks, whilst the official practice could scarcely be ascertained without a formal inquiry, being probably recorded only in departmental memoranda. Moreover, it will be evident from the Reports of the present Record Commission, that the Departments interpret these constitutional precedents in their own way.<sup>3</sup> It will be seen that Departments only have been included in the table printed in the Appendix referred to; but these appear to be the most important for the purpose in view. Some of them have jurisdiction over important and semi-independent

<sup>1</sup> County Courts are nominally under the control of the Treasury, and Coroners under that of the Home Office. Revising Barristers hand over their records to the local authorities, by whom they are incorporated. Police Court records are under the control of the Home Office, presumably.

<sup>2</sup> See below, Sections II, and V to VII, inclusive.

<sup>3</sup> *cf.* 1912 Report, Minutes of Evidence, Q. 1383; 1914 Report, Minutes of Evidence, Q. 6852.

branches in the metropolis,<sup>1</sup> but only the local branches have been noticed here. Amongst the Departments not included in the list are a few which have some responsibility, legal or moral, for the custody of Local Records.<sup>2</sup> The whole question of the actual responsibility of the Departments for the safety and accessibility of their outlying records is an important one for historical students, and it may even concern the interests of the State, as lately demonstrated in the course of the proceedings of the Coal Mines Commission.<sup>3</sup>

## B. CLASSIFICATION OF THE RECORDS.

The whole of the local records preserved in these Courts of Justice, Registries, or Public Departments could doubtless be classified in detail on the system adopted here in the case of other types of local records; that is to say, as Diplomatic Documents, Administrative and Judicial Proceedings, and Miscellaneous respectively. Such a detailed classification, however, cannot be attempted owing to the bulk of the records and the general absence of official lists. Reference may be made to the brief summaries of some of these collections in the 1914 Report.<sup>4</sup>

1. District Registries of the High Court of Justice.<sup>5</sup>  
District Probate Registries.

<sup>1</sup> 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 88-89.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* The Treasury (County Court records) and other Departments, *e.g.* in respect of the Public Record Office Acts of 1877 and 1898; as to the Office of Works, the Patent Office, and the Registry of Friendly Societies, *see* 1914 Report, *s.v.*

<sup>3</sup> Evidence, 6th March, 1919. *e.g.* the observations made by the Chairman on the records of Inspectors of Mines.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. II, Part II; *cf.* 1919 Report, Part II, Appx. v.

<sup>5</sup> Under the control of the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature and the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice respectively. For their distribution, *see* the Law List. As a rule only the Probate Registries contain early records.

2. Outstanding Records of Palatine Jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>
  - Palatinate of Lancaster.<sup>2</sup>
  - Palatinate of Durham.<sup>3</sup>
  - Palatinate of Ely.<sup>4</sup>
3. Statutory Registries.<sup>5</sup>
4. Public Departments.<sup>6</sup>
  - Home Office.<sup>7</sup>
  - War Office.<sup>8</sup>
  - Admiralty.<sup>9</sup>
  - Board of Customs and Excise.<sup>10</sup>
  - Office of H.M. Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues.<sup>11</sup>
  - Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The records of the ancient Palatinate of Chester and Flint are not included here, these having been transferred to the Public Record Office with the records of the Principality of Wales in 1855. As to those of the Duchy of Cornwall, *see* 1914 Report, Vol. II, Part II, p. 173.

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* 1914 Report, Vol. II, Part II, Appx. iii, (8) and Appx. iv, (3).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *See* the printed Calendar (A. Gibbons, 1891), 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 142, and *cf.* above, p. 78.

<sup>5</sup> *e.g.* District Register Offices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and various industrial registries. As to these, *see* 1914 Report. For another class of local statutory records, *see* below, p. 149.

<sup>6</sup> Only collections of historical interest have been noticed here. For the rest, *see* 1914 Report, pp. 16-32, and Appx. (II), pp. 88-89; and 1919 Report, Appx. (II), v.

<sup>7</sup> Records of the Inspectors of Mines, Factories, etc., also Police Court Records (*see* below, p. 104, and 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 114-115).

<sup>8</sup> *i.e.* Records preserved in Home and Foreign Commands, in Ordnance Factories and Military Schools and Hospitals. For a Summary List of these, *see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 214-224.

<sup>9</sup> In the Dockyards, Marine Barracks, Schools, Hospitals, and other depots or institutions (*see* *ibid.*, *loc. cit.* pp. 229-236).

<sup>10</sup> The Customs House Records at the Outports are indicated (*ibid.*, pp. 237-248).

<sup>11</sup> Some records relating to forests, mines, and Crown Lands (Windsor, New Forest, Wales, and Monmouth) are still preserved by local officials (*ibid.*, pp. 250-251).

<sup>12</sup> The Board is concerned chiefly as a distributing department and central repository for certain local records such as Inclosure and Tithe Awards and Maps. The records of Fishery Boards or Committees should

- Board of Inland Revenue.<sup>1</sup>
- Local Government Board.<sup>2</sup>
- General Post Office.<sup>3</sup>
- Ecclesiastical Commission.<sup>4</sup>

The records preserved in the above local repositories may be roughly classified as follows:—

- (a) Diplomatic Documents :  
Warrants, etc. ; Deeds ; Wills ; Inquisitions ; Correspondence ;  
Order Books ; Reports ; Returns ; Certificates.
- (b) Administrative Proceedings :  
Accounts ; Surveys ; Inventories ; Rentals ; Plans ; Muster Rolls ;  
Description Books ; Establishments ; Registers of Births, etc.
- (c) Pleadings in Local Courts (with subsidiary records) :  
Courts Martial ; Manor Court Rolls ; Forest Court Rolls ; Mineral  
Court Rolls, etc.
- (d) Miscellaneous Records.

## II. STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND TRUSTS.

### A. HISTORICAL NOTE.

The useful though obscure part played by various statutory bodies in the evolution of our local government presumably be under its control (*see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 63-66, as to other records under the control of this Board, including the branch Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton).

<sup>1</sup> Besides official papers relating to recent taxation, records of the Special Commissioners of Income Tax and possibly Commissioners of Land Tax may occasionally be found here (*cf.* 1914 Report, Appx., p. 127, and 1919 Report, Appx., p. 97).

<sup>2</sup> Presumably the local archives of this Board are in the custody of the District Inspectors, whose reports should be preserved at Whitehall since 1875. For records preserved in the Poor Law Unions, *see* p. 99 *sq.*, 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 93, and 1919 Report, Appx. (III), p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> Official matters of importance are reported and noted in the central office, but the district archives may contain information of topographical interest (*see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 193-194).

<sup>4</sup> This Commission does not regard itself as a Government department. Most of the ecclesiastical records which it has taken over have been transferred to London. Some have been allowed to remain in the hands of bishops and chapters (*see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 32-34, and 1919 Report, Appx. (II), p. 72).

has not yet been described by reference to their contemporary records.<sup>1</sup> The constitutional and legal history of the whole group has been dealt with in textbooks on local government and in commentaries on the respective statutes;<sup>2</sup> but in one work only shall we find a comprehensive sketch of the constitution and functions of these local statutory authorities, past or present. Indeed we are only able incidentally to form a connected theory as to their relations with the central government and the probable nature of such of their activities as should be recorded in official documents. Of the documents themselves, their nature, extent, and custody we have no adequate indications, and yet their historical value is not only considerable, but will increase with the lapse of time. As it is we have waited too long for the information that could have been furnished by the records of Commissions of Sewers and other bodies whose archives have a very precarious existence. The business transacted by the district Pensions Committees and the actual results of these and other remedial schemes are recorded only in local archives which are under no official supervision or control and are for the most part in grave danger of destruction as soon as their immediate purpose has been served.

The future historian of our national institutions will be prepared for the devolution of central government into local channels, for in certain directions this movement may be traced back to the mediæval period. The employment of Commissions of inquiry as a link between

<sup>1</sup> An adequate account of these bodies is indicated by the contents of Book IV, ch. 6, of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb's great *History of English Local Government*, a chapter which has not yet been published; but cf. 1919 Report, Appx. (III), p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> e.g. Redlich and Hirst's, *Local Government in England*, II, 237 sq.; A. L. Lowell, *Government of England*, II, 129 sq., and Anson, *Crown*, II (2), 30 sq. For the older constitutional theory, see Toulmin Smith's, *Local Government and Centralization*.



the central and local administrations is an expedient as old as Western Civilization itself, and is not confined to our own national history.<sup>1</sup> From the mediæval inquisitions there is only a short step to the Special Commissions<sup>2</sup> of the Tudors and Stuarts, which are succeeded in turn by the Parliamentary Committees and Royal Commissions of the Georgian and Victorian eras.<sup>3</sup>

The Royal Commission may in fact be regarded as a persistent type of the local authority *ad hoc*. In some instances no traces of its activities remain,<sup>4</sup> but in others they are still in evidence after several centuries of hard usage.<sup>5</sup> The history of Commissions of Sewers remains to be written and a later group of Commissions still exercise unrecorded functions,<sup>6</sup> but whilst the progress of land drainage can be studied only in local records, the operations of other statutory bodies are to some extent controlled and recorded in central Departments of the Government. In some cases, indeed, the temporary Commission or Committee has become a permanent Board with the establishment, functions, and regulated

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* the Carolingian inquisitions ; *cf.* *Formula Book*, Part II, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Formula Book*, Part II, and Royal Historical Society, Camden Third Series (*Stiffkey Papers*), Vol. XXVI, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> *Cf.* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 98-100. Besides Committees of either House, local authorities might be expressly erected by statute as in the case of incorporations of Poor Law Guardians.

<sup>4</sup> S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government (Parish and County)*, p. 151.

<sup>5</sup> The Commissions of Sewers dating from the 13th century in some cases, and generally from the middle of the 16th century. 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 98-101, 166.

<sup>6</sup> The Land Tax Commissioners and the special Commissioners for Income Tax. Since 1835 the records of the former have ceased to be filed with the Clerks of the Peace. Definite provision was made for their safe custody by Acts of Parliament in 1780 and 1880. Commissioners are appointed for each county ; *cf.* 1919 Report, Appx., p. 64.

archives of a central Government Department.<sup>1</sup> In other cases it has retained its local character under conditions which render records inaccessible and their state precarious.<sup>2</sup>

Following the trend of democratic government indicated by the Poor Law Amendment and Municipal Corporations Acts of 1834 and 1835, and the Clauses Acts of 1845 to 1847, a fresh crop of local authorities sprang up in the Victorian era.<sup>3</sup> These comprise a large number of Boards or Committees whose authority was derived from various Public Statutes or from the Private Bill legislation of the 18th and 19th centuries.<sup>4</sup>

The effect of the appointment of these later statutory authorities has been to gradually diminish the control of the central Departments over various matters connected with local administration, and incidentally to complete the decentralization of the records. During recent years these new administrative bodies have increased in numbers and importance, their appointment being regarded as an effective means of carrying out the provisions of certain statutes.<sup>5</sup>

The constitution of these Committees is either laid down by statute, or is set forth in rules made by central or local authorities. Examples will be familiar in the case of Old Age Pensions and National Health Insurance Committees, or the Compensation Authorities for Public House Licences. Some of the rules will be found

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* the Charity Commission, Board of Agriculture, etc., Local Government Board, and Board of Education.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the various Improvement Commissions.

<sup>3</sup> Especially under the Poor Law Amendment, Public Health, and Local Government Acts.

<sup>4</sup> S. and B. Webb, *Parish and County*, p. 151. For instances, see Index to Local and Personal Acts (1801-99), *s.v.* *Local Government*.

<sup>5</sup> Such as the Drainage Boards, Burial Boards, Distress, Pensions, Insurance, and Sea Fisheries Committees, etc., referred to in the Table below.

in the *Statutory Rules and Orders*; others are regarded as purely departmental or local. The Committees decide questions of fact or expediency, and the records of their proceedings are kept and presumably retained by the clerks; unless, as in the case of the War Pensions Committees, the local authority, town clerk, etc., acts in that capacity. The actual responsibility of the central Departments in the matter is somewhat vague. In the case of the Compensation Authorities, the levies are merely paid over by the Department to the local authorities, and the Statutory Rules are made by the Justices in Quarter Sessions. To the pre-war Committees there must now be added a larger number of local authorities organized during the war for the purpose of administering emergency legislation, or Orders<sup>1</sup> dealing with such matters as Food Production or Distribution, War Pensions, and Civil Liabilities.

Besides these *ad hoc* committees, there are Joint and separate Committees of County or District Councils and other related bodies.<sup>2</sup> Other local authorities of statutory origin will be mentioned below in connexion with the records of the County and the Parish.

We are also concerned here with the subject of Statutory Trusts, including the custody of the records of certain charities and extinct corporations.

<sup>1</sup> The respective authorities for their appointment will be found in the official compendium to the Defence of the Realm Act.

<sup>2</sup> Such as the four Statutory Committees of the County Council under Section 28 (2) of the Local Government Act of 1888. These and other Committees have, to some extent, an independent position, since their accounts are separately audited by statute; but their records are presumably summarized or ultimately deposited with those of the County or District Councils. It does not follow, however, that the County Records will be permanently preserved, especially as in some cases it is desirable to save space by extensive "weeding". For this aspect of the matter, see the official *Schedules*, p. 312, where records of Watch Committees are recommended for destruction.

The history, distribution, and classification of English local charities is a subject that cannot be adequately treated here, but the existing sources of information for the subjects of the Trusts, and such descriptions of the records<sup>1</sup> as are available, clearly show their antiquity and historical interest. At the same time many of these Charities are intimately connected with certain towns or parishes, and the surviving records are frequently<sup>2</sup> to be found amongst the municipal or parochial records. The distinctive Trust Records included in the present section are those scheduled in schemes made by the Local Government Board or Charity Commissioners, under Sections 7 and 8 of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1883.<sup>3</sup>

The so-called Turnpike Trusts are classified here as Turnpike Road Boards. The surviving records, however, are more elusive, owing to the extinction of these Trusts since the Highways and Locomotives Act of 1878.<sup>4</sup>

There are other Trusts of a public or semi-public nature, but these relate for the most part to public institutions, and will be described in another Section.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Public Record Office, *Lists and Indexes*, X, a Return of Proceedings of the Commissioners for Charitable Uses under the Acts, 39 Eliz., c. 6, and 43 Eliz., c. 4. For the local distribution of these and other Charities, see the Reports of the later Charity Commissioners, and the works mentioned in the Introduction.

<sup>2</sup> Many others have been filed as exhibits in Chancery, and are there preserved.

<sup>3</sup> For a list of these (to 1900), see Report of the Local Records Committee (1902), Appx., p. 242.

<sup>4</sup> For further information on Turnpike Trusts, under the General Turnpike Acts, 1772-1822, and down to the Highway Act of 1862, see S. and B. Webb, *The King's Highway*, and 1919 Report, Appx. (III), p. 33.

<sup>5</sup> Below, p. 145.

## Select List of Statutory Authorities and Trusts.<sup>1</sup>

Commissions, Committees, and other Boards.<sup>2</sup>

Commissions of Sewers, Drainage Boards, and River Conservancies.<sup>3</sup>

Barmasters of Courts of Great Barmote.<sup>4</sup>

Commissioners of Land Tax.<sup>5</sup>

Commissioners of Income Tax.<sup>5</sup>

Improvement Commissioners (Paving, Harbours, Docks, Piers, Quays, Canals, Bridges, Inclosures, etc.).<sup>6</sup>

Boards of Conservators and Local Fishery Committees.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For further information, *see* Returns made under Sections 9 and 58 of the Local Government Act (1894), and other Reports of the Local Government Board, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, etc. ; also "Statutory Rules and Orders," and the "Index to Local and Personal Acts".

<sup>2</sup> Including those appointed under Letters Patent or Royal Warrants ; those elected or appointed under various statutes ; and such as act under the authority of certain Government Departments. A few individual "authorities" are still found, as in the case of "Overseers of the Poor," and many more are now obsolete, though their records should have survived.

<sup>3</sup> For local authorities concerned with Drainage or Embankments, *see* Reports of Coast Erosion Commission (1908-1911), and the 1914 Report (Appx., pp. 98-100). Minor Drainage Boards were constituted by the Act of 1861, and other local authorities under Local Acts or Commissions, or Trust Deeds. The procedure is governed by the Sewers Act of 23 Henry VIII, c. 5, and the Land Drainage Act of 1861.

<sup>4</sup> These are Inferior Courts of Record, the records of which should be in the custody of the Stewards or of the Duchy of Lancaster Office. The Barmasters have records in their custody (1919 Rep., Appx., p. 66 *sq.*).

<sup>5</sup> *See* above, p. 99, *n.* 6.

<sup>6</sup> Some of these have disappeared as the result of recent legislation, and their place is being taken by District and Municipal Councils, or the Committees subsidiary to them, while the powers of Land, Inclosure, and Town Commissioners are now exercised by Government Departments. Some special authorities act under powers derived from Charters or Local Acts or Provisional Orders made under the General Pier and Harbour Acts of 1861, etc. Road Boards can be constituted under the Local Government Act of 1894.

<sup>7</sup> Under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts (1861-92) and the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act (1888). These are under the supervision of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- Incorporations and Boards of Poor Law Guardians.<sup>1</sup>
- Education Committees.<sup>2</sup>
- Highway Boards.<sup>3</sup>
- Assessment Committees.<sup>4</sup>
- Watch Committees.<sup>5</sup>
- School Boards.<sup>6</sup>
- Hospital Boards.<sup>7</sup>
- Sanitary Boards.<sup>8</sup>
- Burial Boards.<sup>9</sup>
- Public Utility Service Boards.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Government Act of 1894, these are associated with the Rural District Councils. In earlier times they were the acting Sanitary authorities. Some of the 640 Boards of Guardians now existing should have records going back to 1834, and some Poor Law Incorporations to a much earlier date. Reports and other information as to Poor Law Unions should be preserved by the Local Government Board, since 1871. (*See* 1919 Report, Appx. (III), pp. 29-30.)

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the Joint Committees appointed by the County and Urban District Councils.

<sup>3</sup> Under the numerous Highway Acts, 1772-1822 (*see* above, p. 102, *n.* 4).

<sup>4</sup> Committees of Boards of Guardians for revising the assessment of Poor Rates by the Overseers (*First Report of Royal Commission on Local Taxation*, p. 15).

<sup>5</sup> These are the police authorities in boroughs under 5 and 6 Wm. IV., c. 76, S. 86. In counties the powers of the Justices have been transferred to a Joint Committee since 1888.

<sup>6</sup> Associated with the earlier statutory history of public education. Since 1902 these have been under the control of the Board of Education, and *cf.* above, Education Committees.

<sup>7</sup> Joint Boards or Committees under the Public Health Acts, the Local Government Act (1894), and the National Insurance Act (1911).

<sup>8</sup> Including Port Sanitary Authorities and Drainage or Sewerage Boards under the Public Health Acts (1848-75), the Local Government Act (1894), and various Local Acts. The records of the Local Sanitary Boards, 1848-71, are apparently lost in most cases.

<sup>9</sup> Under the Burial Acts (1852-85) and Local Government Act (1894).

<sup>10</sup> *i.e.* Water, Gas, Tramways, and Electricity Boards under the Local Government Act (1894), Metropolis Water Act (1902), and Local Acts. To these may be added such services as fire brigades, scavenging, conservancy of open spaces, etc.

Pension and Distress Committees.<sup>1</sup>  
Compensation Authorities.<sup>2</sup>  
Child Welfare Committees.  
Food Production and Distribution Committees.  
Labour Employment Bureaus.

## B. DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHIVES.

Although the origin and functions of these Statutory Authorities and Trusts are well defined, very little information unfortunately exists as to the records now or formerly in their custody. Generally the custodian of the records in question was the Clerk to the Board, or the Secretary to a Commission or Committee. In the case of Commissions of Sewers and Turnpike or Town Trusts, and Port Authorities, etc., the records were in the custody of the clerk who was usually a practising solicitor. No provision was made in the Local Government Act of 1888 for the transfer of such records to the County Councils, nor were they reclaimed by the Government as the property of the Crown, and as a natural result of this oversight, they have remained in the private possession of various firms of solicitors or their successors. In a few cases the records have been recovered by the County Councils.<sup>3</sup> It would seem that a like procedure exists in the case of the more recent Statutory Authorities, such as Old Age, Insurance,

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Pension Committees and Sub-Committees under the Old Age Pensions Act (1908); District Committees under the National Health Insurance Act (1911); Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act (1905), and Naval and Military Pensions, and Civil Liabilities Committees and Local Committees under the Acts of 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Under the Act of 1910 ("Statutory Rules and Orders," 48-53). The records relating to the collection and distribution of the levies are kept by the Government Department concerned (Customs and Excise). The administrative records are presumably kept by the local committees.

<sup>3</sup> 1914 Report, Minutes of Evidence, Q. 6499, *passim*.

Compensation, and War Pensions Committees, which, though controlled or audited by central Departments or County and District Councils, retain the custody of their administrative records.

Records relating to local institutions may have come into the hands of Royal Commissions or Parliamentary or Departmental Committees of Inquiry.<sup>1</sup> In this case there is very small chance of their survival.

In the case of Charitable Trusts, much information, together with many abstracts of the records, have been preserved by the Charity Commissioners, but not all these Trusts are of a public nature. Moreover, the tendency has been for the government of Charitable Trusts, and the custody of their records, to fall into the hands of the local Borough and District Councils.

In the metropolitan area, special conditions naturally obtain, and statutory bodies like the Metropolitan Water Board, the Thames Conservancy, and the Port of London Authority, assume the importance of central Departments, though they are none the less Statutory Authorities within the scope of the present section. The records of such bodies are naturally extensive and they are sometimes carefully and even skilfully kept.<sup>2</sup>

It follows from the foregoing observations that the position of these records depends greatly on the survival or extinction of the Authority or Trust to which they refer, and this forms perhaps the best basis for their classification.

The nature of the records themselves is comparatively simple and, as far as can be ascertained from collections that have survived or are accessible, they comprise the following elements :—

<sup>1</sup> As to this, *see* Reports of the Municipal Corporation Commissions, 1835 and 1880.

<sup>2</sup> 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 196. As to records of various extinct or merged Committees now in the custody of the London County Council, *see* 1919 Report, Appx. (III), pp. 6-8.



Inquisitions and Returns.<sup>1</sup>  
 Surveys.<sup>2</sup>  
 Assessments.<sup>3</sup>  
 Reports.<sup>4</sup>  
 Accounts and Vouchers.  
 Correspondence.  
 Minutes.<sup>5</sup>  
 Orders.  
 Memoranda.  
 Diaries and Common-place Books.  
 Official Instruments.<sup>6</sup>  
 Title Deeds.<sup>7</sup>  
 Plans.<sup>8</sup>  
 Law Papers.

It will be seen that these documents vary in character according to the date and functions of the several authorities. It should be noted that in some cases few records will be kept, on the ground that matters of importance are recorded in the archives of the Government Departments concerned with the subject. In no case, apparently, is there any established procedure with regard to the custody, production, or disposal of these records, nor have they been described, as a class, in any published work of reference.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Of jurors by precepts of Commissioners of Sewers and Mineral Courts.

<sup>2</sup> Of highways, etc.

<sup>3</sup> For various rates made by Statutory Authorities.

<sup>4</sup> By the Board to the Government or to the Board by its officers and others.

<sup>5</sup> Of proceedings of Boards or Committees.

<sup>6</sup> Including original Commissions (Letters Patent), Awards, etc., or various diplomatic documents, in the case of Trusts.

<sup>7</sup> Ancient deeds of various kinds, especially in connexion with Charitable and Town Trusts.

<sup>8</sup> Of roads, bridges, canals, etc.

<sup>9</sup> The best account will be found in Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb's, *English Local Government*. The most comprehensive list is that contained in the *Annual Local Taxation Returns*, but these have not been published later than March, 1914.

## III. COUNTY RECORDS.

## A. HISTORICAL NOTE.

The county, like the parish, has survived as an historical tradition, but the ancient hundred has left no definite traces of its administrative activities. Besides the parish and the hundred, the county also included certain towns not yet wholly self-governing. Seignorial franchises were either coequal with counties, like the palatinates and marcher shires, or were more or less co-extensive with hundreds and parishes, like the feudal lordships and manors. All the above historical units have contributed to the existing local archives, but those of the parish are described below under that title,<sup>1</sup> while the family muniments of lords of manors and other ancient franchises are separately described below as private documents.<sup>2</sup> Similarly all town records have been grouped together elsewhere, whether the town itself is of municipal status or otherwise; but, in any case, the records of Urban and Rural County Districts do not come within the present jurisdiction of the County Councils.<sup>3</sup>

A few other unappropriated records remain to be considered. Those which relate to the offices of Lord-Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum and to the proceedings of the County Justices in Quarter Sessions are in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace, and these do not include the judicial records of the boroughs. But there is no assurance that the records of the Justices in rural

<sup>1</sup> Below, Section V.

<sup>2</sup> Below, Section VII.

<sup>3</sup> This makes the omission of their supervision by the County Council under Sec. 17 (9) of the Local Government Act of 1894 all the more remarkable. By virtue of Sec. 17 (7) of the Act, District Councils are possessed of public records for the proper custody of which no provision is made by the Act.

Petty Sessions are properly cared for.<sup>1</sup> Again, two representative county officers, the Sheriff and the Coroner,<sup>2</sup> have retained the custody of their official records, like the "Single" and "Double" justice of the peace. However, since the historical relations of the Sheriffs with the Exchequer were interrupted by the judicial reforms of 1833-4, the former of these collections is represented only by the formal and subsidiary documents in the custody of the Under-Sheriffs. Those in the possession of the Coroners are of more importance, but they are occasionally found in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace, who also files copies of the inquisitions, etc., in criminal causes.<sup>3</sup>

The records of the ecclesiastical authorities of the county (so far as this coincides with the diocese) will be described elsewhere.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the normal county units, the "ridings" and "parts" of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire respectively, the new county divisions of Suffolk and Sussex, and the liberties of Ely and Peterborough, we have to take account of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The Isle of Wight and the Scilly Isles are not administrative counties in the ordinary sense; the former has no separate county records, but the latter has an autonomous local council with modern records, apparently of no historical interest.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As to the functions of the Justices in general or special Petty Sessions and the nature of the ensuing records, *see* below, p. 111.

<sup>2</sup> But under the Act of 11 Hen. VII, c. 15, the Custos Rotulorum was to supervise the Sheriffs' records. As to those of the Coroners (*Second Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, Appx., p. 143 *sq.*).

<sup>3</sup> Under a recent Act the Magistrates' Clerks are no longer bound to send copies of Indictments for this purpose, and the permanent record of such cases is likely to be eventually lost.

<sup>4</sup> Section VI.

<sup>5</sup> Under Sec. 49 (1) of the Local Government Act of 1888 (*Report of Local Records Committee* (1902), Appx., p. 18.

The State Records of the Channel Islands and Isle of Man should, perhaps, be included above with the outlying public records; but they can be more conveniently described with the Records of England's sister states in the second volume of this work.<sup>1</sup>

The Seignorial Records of the ancient palatinates have, for the most part, been transferred to the Public Record Office, and are described above as Central Archives. Those not yet transferred are mentioned above in Section I. It does not appear that the general condition of the county records of Lancashire, Durham, Ely, Yorkshire, Northumberland, or Cheshire is affected by these palatine jurisdictions, since, from the 16th century onwards, the authority of the Crown and its local officers had been established by special legislation.<sup>2</sup> At the same time all these liberties were either reserved to the Crown or re-granted, and, like the great northern estates forfeited in 1715, they have remained, to some extent, outside the ordinary civil government of the counties.<sup>3</sup>

The County Records now in the custody of the Clerks of the Peace comprise the Quarter Sessions Records, with the addition of the administrative records of the County Councils under the Local Government Act of 1888. The former class of records dates back to the middle of the 16th century and the latter to 1888, though, under the Act referred to, certain functions formerly

<sup>1</sup> *First Report of Royal Commission on Public Records, Minutes of Evidence*, p. 74, and *Second Report*, Appx. (II), p. 72 sq. With these are preserved (as in Scotland and Ireland) the Parish Registers, under an Act of 1910.

<sup>2</sup> 27 Henry VIII, c. 24. As to these, see S. and B. Webb, *The Parish and the County*, p. 310; Hodgson's *Northumberland*, Part II, Vol. I, and the recent *History of Northumberland*, Vol. VIII.

<sup>3</sup> Thus the local records of the North Riding of Yorkshire and those of Durham may be supplemented by the seignorial and ecclesiastical records of the regality and peculiar of Hexhamshire in the possession of the Archbishop of York and Lord Allerdale respectively.

discharged by the Justices and Clerk of the Peace have been transferred to the County Council and its clerk, who practically acts in a dual capacity.

The origin of the office of Justice of the Peace may be traced back, at least, to the beginning of the reign of Edward III, and their proceedings are regulated by successive statutes down to the year 1545, when the constitution of the Quarter Sessions was remodelled.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the General Sessions there might be Special Sessions, supplemented later by the Petty Sessions, appeals from which were heard at the Quarter Sessions.

From the Tudor period onwards the functions of the "Single" and "Double" justice become of increasing importance, and the Petty Sessions for trying minor offences without a jury or the Special Sessions for licensing alehouses, diverting highways, etc., must have been associated with a considerable mass of records.<sup>2</sup> These were in the custody of the Clerk to the Magistrates, and most of the early records have disappeared owing to the fact that the clerks to the magistrates are in almost all cases practising solicitors.

As early as the 14th century it seems to have been the duty of the Justices' Clerk (afterwards Clerk of the Peace) to keep the records,<sup>3</sup> and the Justices were to see that this was done.<sup>4</sup> The appointment of a Custos Rotulorum and the deputation of the custody of the records of the Quarter Sessions to a Clerk of the Peace in

<sup>1</sup> For these enactments, see the Record editions of the *Statutes of the Realm and Rolls of Parliament*; Lambard's *Eirenarcha*; Burn's *Justice of the Peace*; Beard's *Justice of the Peace*; and B. H. Putnam's *Statute of Labourers*, Part I, ch. ii.

<sup>2</sup> S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government and The King's Highway*.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Parl., III, 85 b. *Viz.* "Garder les recordes & proces avantdictes".

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, *i.e.* to place the records "en bone and seure garde".

the reign of Henry VIII,<sup>1</sup> suggests that a wholesale destruction of the mediæval records had taken place from want of individual responsibility. The measure is also in keeping with the appointment of a Clerk of the Assize during this period.<sup>2</sup> However, with the exception of the rolls in official custody,<sup>3</sup> unearthed by Miss B. H. Putnam, no records of the Quarter Sessions seem to have survived before the year 1547. The duty of the Clerk of the Peace in respect of the custody of the records continued to be recognized down to 1888, when the Clerk of the Council was associated with him for this purpose, the two offices being habitually filled by the same person. Although the preservation of the judicial records of Quarter Sessions is not explicitly enjoined by statute, the obligation may be assumed. In the case of documents deposited a statutory direction is usually forthcoming.<sup>4</sup>

It is, unfortunately, only too apparent from the returns to the inquiries made in 1800, 1837, and 1902, that a very large percentage of the Quarter Sessions Records

<sup>1</sup> 27 Hen. VIII, c. 24 ; 37 Hen. VIII, c. 1 ; *cf.* 34 and 35 Hen. VIII, c. 14, requiring the Clerk of the Peace to transmit to the King's Bench transcripts of Indictments, etc., in cases of murder and felony.

<sup>2</sup> See *First and Second Reports of the Public Records Commission* under "Assize Records". These "Circuit Records" ceased to be transmitted to Westminster after the accession of Henry VII.

<sup>3</sup> Described in E.H.R., vol. xxix, p. 482, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Under various Statutes since the 17th century documents in the nature of declarations or certificates have been filed with the Clerk of the Peace. *Third Report of Royal Commission on Public Records*, p. 10 (*cf.* 1902 Report, Appx. VIII). By the Parliamentary Documents Deposit Acts (7 Wm. IV and 1 Vict., c. 83 ; *cf.* 8 and 9 Vict., c. 20, S. 9) the Clerk of the Peace was required to take into his custody documents deposited in connexion with schemes for railways, canals, harbours, waterworks, etc. Another copy being deposited with the parish clerk (England). Access to these documents was to be given to applicants paying fees on a fixed scale. As to the supervision of County Records by the Local Government Board, see *Report of Local Records Committee* (1902), p. 11.

filed since the Act of 1545 perished through the neglect of their statutory custodians.

### B. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS.<sup>1</sup>

The nature of the Quarter Sessions Records is briefly indicated in the 1902 Report.<sup>2</sup> Further information is furnished by the 1800 and 1837 Reports, and various printed calendars or lists of Sessions Records.<sup>3</sup> From these sources it can be ascertained that certain types of records are found in every county. The Session Records, in the form of rolls or files of pleadings and subsidiary documents, form one class, and the Session Books, containing Minutes and Orders, etc., another. The registers or inrolments of documents deposited by statute or custom are entered in books, or the originals are filed in bundles.<sup>4</sup> There is also a class of precedent books and a residuum of miscellaneous documents.

If all the Quarter Sessions Records had been carefully preserved in every county, a series of inestimable value, both for national and local history, would have been available to-day. As it is, a complete series could only be formed by examples taken from several counties. The distribution of the surviving types of records as indicated by the 1800 Report is instructive. The Sessions Books, being more convenient for reference, are the best preserved, whilst the actual records of the Sessions, in the shape of files of indictments and subsidiary records, are usually neglected. Amongst the registers, those relating to game preservation, the Parliamentary Poll Books, the duplicate Land Tax Assessments,

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed description of these records in the 17th century, see 1919 Report, pp. 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> Especially Appendix xii, a valuable compilation, made under the supervision of Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte.

<sup>3</sup> See 1919 Report, Appx., pp. 1-13.

<sup>4</sup> See the 1800 Report, pp. 261-303.

and the Memorials of Annuities are fairly well preserved. Documents filed since 1837 are of topographical rather than historical interest.

The subjects of historical interest that are elucidated by these records include the following :—

1. Generally : the political, constitutional, ecclesiastical, economic, social, and local history of the country.
2. Specially : inclosures of Common Fields, local and public taxation, prices and production of corn, flax, hemp, etc., rates of wages, Friendly Societies, mines, quarries, railways, rivers, canals and bridges, highways, game licences, inland shipping, insolvent debtors, names of freeholders, jurors, constables, licensed victuallers, householders, aliens, printers, Roman Catholics, Dissenters, office holders, the militia, recruiting for army and navy, magistrates and deputy lieutenants, coroners' inquests, county buildings (gaols, etc.), maps and plans, savings banks, lunatics, vagrants, gypsies, paupers, discharged soldiers and sailors, highwaymen, riots, smuggling, play-houses, state trials, elections, billeting, public health.

The above subjects are not represented in every county collection, the Middlesex Records being by far the most complete in this respect. It should also be noted that Quarter Sessions were held in the more important towns, and that in such towns the records may be found in the custody of a separate Clerk of the Peace.<sup>1</sup>

The County Records are usually arranged in two main series : (1) the older records received from the office of the Clerk of the Peace, and still in his official custody ; (2) the records of the County Council, dating from 1888, in the custody, usually, of the same official, in his other capacity of the Clerk to the County Council. It will also be found that in the case of the modern County Council

<sup>1</sup> Especially since the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882 ; but in many towns Quarter Sessions were held by recorders as early as the 16th century.



Records these may be preserved in the several departments of the County Surveyor, Treasurer (or Accountant), Medical Officer, Director of Education, Land Agent, or Agricultural Secretary, Controller of Licences, and the Inspectors of weights, measures, food and drugs, etc., besides the Police, Chief Constable, and the Clerk to the Visiting Committee of Lunatic Asylums. The records of the general business of the Council are, however, in the custody of its Clerk, who usually obtains possession of such of the older records of the above departments as are worthy of preservation.

It will be found that the records of the County Treasurer and Surveyor date from a much earlier period. It is also interesting to find that many titles amongst the Sessions and County Records are represented in the archives of the American States, formerly British Colonies.<sup>1</sup>

The records in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace fall into two groups of judicial and administrative records, but this classification would, strictly speaking, exclude certain types of records deposited or otherwise acquired, and, therefore, a structural classification of these records may be attempted here.

### **Classified List of County Records.<sup>2</sup>**

#### **1. Diplomatic Documents.**

Writs and Precepts.

Minutes and Orders.<sup>3</sup>

Commissions of the Peace.

Certificates (Sacrament, Gamekeepers, etc.).

Oaths (Officers') and Declarations (Tests).

Petitions (Paupers).

Bonds (etc.), (Office Holders, etc.).

Deeds (Title).

<sup>1</sup> *Illinois Historical Collections* (ed. C. W. Alvord), Vol. XII.

In the custody of the Clerks of the Peace and Clerks to the County Council.

<sup>3</sup> Originals and Entries.

Deeds (Registered).  
 Wills (Registered).  
 Articles of Friendly Societies.  
 Letters.  
 Passes (Vagrants).  
 Licenses (Alehouses, etc.).  
 State Papers (Militia, etc.).

## 2. Ministerial Proceedings.

- (a) Accounts—Treasurers'; County Works; Land Tax Assessments; Rates; Miscellaneous.
- (b) Surveys—Inclosure Awards; Turnpike Road Awards; Plans of Bridges, Canals, Railways, Roads, etc.; Navigation, etc., Papers.
- (c) Nominal Lists—Registers or Lists of Papists and Nonconformists; Alehouses and Publicans; Gamekeepers; Ships; Bounties; Paupers, Debtors, Lunatics, and Convicts; Jurors; Freeholders (Poll Books); Friendly Societies; Traders (under various Acts); Meeting Houses and Chapels; Hearths; Persons using Hairpowder; Servants.

## 3. Judicial Proceedings.

- (a) Sessions Records<sup>1</sup>—Writs, Indictments, Presentments, Convictions, Informations, Depositions, Examinations, Bonds, or Recognizances; Inquisitions (Coroners'); Orders and Certificates; Jury Panels; Names of Ministers; Estreats of Fines; Proceedings in Appeal Cases.
- (b) Session Books.<sup>2</sup>

## 4. Miscellaneous.

Maps and Plans, etc., officially deposited.  
 Personal and other documents (casually deposited).

# IV. TOWN RECORDS.

## A. HISTORICAL NOTE.

The towns whose records are included in the following survey fall into two classes: (1) The existing corpora-

<sup>1</sup> The usual form is that of a year-file of original records wrapped in a parchment cover so as to resemble a roll or bundle.

<sup>2</sup> These are Entry Books of Orders and decisions of the Justices, some of which are not found on the Sessions File. With these are entered many administrative orders, precepts, and certificates, etc.

tions, whether county or non-county boroughs ; (2) Urban and Rural Districts which include former corporations, now disfranchised, as well as towns which have never been incorporated.<sup>1</sup>

It is important to note that the distribution of historical records is not indicated by the political or economic position of the borough. Some boroughs which have enjoyed a parliamentary franchise for many centuries have never possessed any records, and ancient cities which have been surpassed in wealth and population by modern industrial centres usually possess a rich store of documents. Again, while many small country towns have jealously guarded their muniments for centuries, some modern county boroughs have lost the bulk of their ancient records by fire or water, theft, or mere neglect. In some cases, indeed, even county boroughs have no early municipal history and therefore no historic records.

This diverse distribution of the records is to some extent due to the effects of certain Acts of Parliament during the 19th century, notably to the Municipal Corporations Acts of 1835, 1882, and 1883, and the Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894. The Act of 1835 was based upon the Report of a Royal Commission<sup>2</sup> which dealt with the status and property of nearly three hundred parliamentary boroughs established by charter or prescription. More than a hundred of these were disenfranchised by the Act ; but their records, though not protected by the Act, still remained in the nominal custody of the old governing bodies. Moreover, in many towns the former judicial and administrative procedure

<sup>1</sup> In a few cases the town has ceased to be reckoned even as a parish.

<sup>2</sup> 1835-9. It is possible that some Borough Records were dispersed by the Commissioners themselves. We know that Town Records were deposited with the Commissioners in connexion with the Reports of 1835 and 1880. As the official archives of both Commissions have disappeared, further particulars are not forthcoming.

continued in force till the Report of the Municipal Corporations Commission in 1880 recommended its abrogation. The Acts of 1882 and 1883, however, made some provision for the records which had thus become derelict, by placing them in the official custody of the existing local authority. This authority was in most cases a Sanitary Board or Improvement Commission, but as no provision was made for requiring the existing records to be handed over by their custodians (who doubtless claimed a vested interest in them), nothing passed to the new authorities. In any case, most of the records that are known to have been in the possession of the disfranchised boroughs have been deliberately or wantonly dispersed since 1883.<sup>1</sup>

It is true that the Act of 1883 provided<sup>2</sup> for the creation of "Town Trusts," in certain cases, under "Schemes" to be prepared by the Local Government Board or Charity Commissioners; but comparatively few of these schemes have been issued.<sup>3</sup> Even where Schemes have been made, the schedules are quite general and vague in their descriptions, the records do not appear to be inspected,

<sup>1</sup> A list of the corporations disfranchised in 1835 and reconsidered in 1880 is printed in schedules to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1883; also in an Appendix to the Report of 1880. From one point of view English towns might be classified according to their inclusion in or exclusion from these schedules. On the other hand the 1835 Report was not completed and the belated Report of 1880 only increased the existing confusion in respect of the custody of municipal records. The list of towns investigated in the 1902 Report is also incomplete. Again, in any given period these towns might be classified in relation to the form of Government, for this necessarily indicates the character of the records, whether of Quarter Sessions, Inferior Courts of Records, Manor Courts, Town Councils, Town Commissioners, and the like.

<sup>2</sup> Sections 7 and 8.

<sup>3</sup> A list to date is printed in Appendix XIII, of the Report of the Committee on Local Records (1902), a further list is printed in the 1919 Report, Appx. i.

and their position must be regarded as somewhat precarious.<sup>1</sup>

The Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894 completed the disintegration of the disfranchised boroughs which were absorbed by Urban or Rural Districts, in company with many small but historic and richly documented towns administered by Urban, Rural, or Parish Councils.<sup>2</sup>

## B. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS.

The Classified List of typical Town Records printed below has been compiled from the Reports mentioned in the footnote.<sup>3</sup> None of these is entirely adequate to the purpose, since none affords a complete list of existing boroughs having records, and it is not within the scope of any to include systematically the extinct boroughs where records may have survived. The later Reports also include many recent incorporations, which have no accumulation of records. On the occasion of each Report a number of towns failed to make any returns, and those that were made vary greatly in value.

<sup>1</sup> In some cases, however, they are carefully watched by local antiquaries. In other cases where the records are believed to be missing they are to be found in the lawful possession of the lord of the manor, for a large proportion of the reputed boroughs of England and Wales enjoyed that position by prescription only.

<sup>2</sup> As to the position of Urban and Rural Councils in respect of the custody of Local Records, *see* Macmorran on the Local Government Act of 1894, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> The Historical Manuscripts Commission (1870, etc.); the Municipal Corporations Commission (1835-9 and 1880); the Public Records Commission (1837), and the Local Records Committee (1902). A list of towns is appended which has been derived from the above Reports; also from the Report of the House of Commons' Committee on the promulgation of the Statutes (Dec., 1796); from a Return (H.C. 448) of 1870, and from T. Carew's "Historical Account" (1755). The Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Records (1799-1800) does not notice the town records.

Except in a few cases, where a town possesses a good modern calendar, the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission still afford the fullest available information as to the records: but the archives inspected on behalf of that Commission are but a small minority, and, though copious extracts of the most interesting documents are given, the reports fail to supply the place of a Summary List. There is no guarantee that the list of records is exhaustive, and supplementary reports were frequently made necessary by subsequent discoveries or recoveries of documents not in municipal custody at the time of the earlier report. The want of a uniform scheme of classification is also apparent, though in the later Reports a better method obtains, and kindred records receive a certain degree of arrangement. But in many cases the documents are either described in the order in which they were produced for inspection, or roughly grouped according to their *format*, as "volumes, deeds, rolls, bundles, and miscellaneous records". The inspectors were interested chiefly in the sources for political history and biography, and thus charters, deeds, letters, and state papers received far more attention at their hands than other documents which have real value as local records. The judicial records of the boroughs are notably affected in this way, being often ignored or insufficiently described.<sup>1</sup>

The reports of the Municipal Corporations Commissions of 1835-9 and 1876-80 are chiefly valuable as affording a list of boroughs and as a guide to the various

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* "Proceedings in the Law Courts" is an inadequate description of records where a town possesses Quarter Sessions, Court of Record, Court Leet, etc.; *cf.* also "Sessions rolls in large numbers," "Several Court Books belonging to the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries," while the phrase, "Rolls, after 1648, not examined," suggests the possibility of serious omissions. These records seldom receive more than cursory notices. Similar objections applies to the information about judicial records supplied to the 1902 Committee.

records which may at some time have existed in any given borough. These Reports mention existing courts, guilds, local customs, and charities, but they are not to be relied upon for obsolete courts and franchises; and as they do not deal systematically with any records (except charters and accounts) in connection with the constitution of the borough they give a limited view of the town archives. It is unsafe to infer from them the existence or the extent of any series of records except in particular cases. The Reports are founded upon actual inspection, and the date of earliest entry in the town register or guild roll is sometimes given.

In the 1837 Report the form of the returns is governed by the scheduled queries<sup>1</sup> of the Commissioners, consequently a more definite system of classification is observable. Comparatively few towns, however, are dealt with, and the method of classification adopted has serious drawbacks. In the first place, documents subsequent to the Revolution are positively excluded. In the second place, the inquiry takes special note of the records which may be useful in illustrating general or local history, and thus many documents of real interest may have escaped mention.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, the Report contains some valuable information, though it relates to a comparatively small number of towns of note.

<sup>1</sup> These make special mention of individual classes of records, and are therefore highly instructive in estimating the results of the returns.

<sup>2</sup> The Town Clerk of a Devonshire town (Tiverton) writes: "The only documents of antiquity I have are merely the records of proceedings of quarter sessions of the corporation, of trustees of some charities, and proceedings of commissioners of town improvement, but none of these tend to illustrate general or local history"; *cf.* also Totnes, Tregony, and others. Morpeth: "Nothing tending to illustrate general or local history; merely old deeds and grants to chantry priests, very ancient . . . throw no light whatever on local or public history". Hereford: "No ancient records or manuscripts in the archives of the corporation of this city that will be useful in illustrating general or local history".

The returns published in the 1902 Report are also very incomplete, and are confined to county and non-county boroughs.

The publications of local societies contain many specimens of town records, and these have been occasionally described by historians and antiquaries, but few adequate lists have been compiled.

Four classes of Town Records are of almost universal occurrence. These are of the usual structural character, but the subject-matter is quite distinctive.

1. Diplomatic Documents, including both royal and local types of Charters, Deeds, and other instruments,<sup>1</sup> with official and private correspondence. Many of these documents relate to Guilds, Charities, or Trusts and other local institutions.<sup>2</sup>

2. Administrative Proceedings, which comprise documents relating to regulations for the government of the town,<sup>3</sup> its extent, trade, finance, etc. These documents

<sup>1</sup> Amongst these are many Wills; but the formal enrolment of wills in Hastings and other popular courts must be regarded as a judicial act.

<sup>2</sup> For lists of towns with Guilds, *see* Webb, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 279 *sq.* The records of Guilds, Hospitals, Almshouses, and Schools include such types as Charters, Deeds, Accounts, Extents, Register Books of Minutes and Ordinances, etc., Lists of Names, etc. These records have been fairly well preserved as title deeds of town property.

<sup>3</sup> These are, next to the Charters, perhaps the most universal and characteristic of town records, though, on account of local variations both of name and of contents, they present the greatest difficulty for the purpose of classification. It is not uncommon to find that the book, or series, containing the minutes and orders of the municipal body may contain also Presentments of Jurors, lists of Officials, Oaths (municipal or statutory), Accounts, Letters, Proclamations, Enrolments of deeds, Wills, and all kinds of memoranda. Where copious records remain of a wide variety of local activities and franchises (*e.g.* Plymouth, Yarmouth) there are usually separate series of books and rolls for Minutes and Orders, Assemblies, Accounts, Copies of Letters, and other enrolments. Again, the above memoranda are occasionally preserved on files instead of being entered in books (as at Hereford), or in bundles of loose papers (as at



again emanate both from the municipal corporation and the various bodies associated with it.

3. Judicial Proceedings corresponding with the various jurisdictions exercised by the town, whether these pertain to an ancient city with the status of a "County Corporate," or to a smaller borough with its "Inferior Courts of Record," or even with Manorial Courts only.<sup>1</sup>

4. Miscellaneous Documents which have been casually deposited or which do not directly concern the administration of the town.

In the Classified List that follows an attempt has been made to include all series of records typical of the various aspects of administration of English towns without regard to their individual origin or status. It will, perhaps, be found that the existence in certain towns of special types of records is due to their exceptional position, geographical or political, at some period of their history. Instances of such collections occur in the case of the communal records of the Cinque Ports; the

Aldeburgh and Stratford-on-Avon), or in portfolios (as at Melcombe and Sandwich). Between the extremes the usage varies in accordance with the corporations' powers and peculiarities. Thus all kinds of memoranda are contained in the series among "Minutes and Orders".

<sup>1</sup> As to the general significance of these courts, see Webb, *Local Government*, Vol. II, p. 339 *sq.* The distribution of Quarter Sessions and Courts of Summary Jurisdiction is given in the Law List and Home Office Returns. For Coroners' Courts, see 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 143-162. For Inferior Courts of Record, see *ibid.*, pp. 97-98 and 163-164, and 1919 Report, *passim*. For special Courts, such as Admiralty, Law Merchant, and Pie Powder, see 1919 Report, *passim*, and Webb, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 359. The condition of the judicial records is generally unsatisfactory; for example, the records of recognizances under the Statute of Merchants (1283) and Statute Staple (1353) in the shape of Registers or Rolls of Proceedings must have been kept in a large number of towns indicated by statute or charter, but the proportion that has survived is insignificant. Generally, the distribution of records in "Counties Corporate" is unequal, and the existing records assimilate to the borough rather than to the county type.

Orphan Books of Bristol and other cities; the Water-bailiffs' Books of several towns on the East Coast; the Customs Records of Chester; the archives of the Eastland Merchants of York and the Ostmen of Newcastle-on-Tyne; the records of Carlisle horse-fair, London Bridge House, and the Lincoln "Dyke Tolls". In other cases the prevalence of certain classes of records may be due to social and economic causes as well as to the circumstance of their exceptional preservation.<sup>1</sup> Finally, in other cases many unusual records<sup>2</sup> have probably been casually deposited or withdrawn from their normal custody.

### Classified List of Town Records.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1. Diplomatic Documents.

##### A. Royal and Official Documents.<sup>3</sup>

Charters, Writs, Letters Patent, and other Instruments under the Royal Seals; Official or semi-official Letters.

##### B. Local and Municipal Documents.<sup>4</sup>

(a) Seignorial Charters and Grants.<sup>5</sup>

(b) Deeds, Leases, Conveyances, Covenants, Indentures,<sup>6</sup> Oaths, Wills, Orders, Petitions, Correspondence.

(c) Cartularies, Custumals, Letter Books, Inrolments of Wills, Coucher Books, or Registers of Leases.

#### 2. Administrative or Ministerial Records.

##### A. Minutes and Orders, Memoranda, and Register Books.

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Guild Records at Preston, Beverley, Stratford-on-Avon, etc.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Parochial Records in many towns: the process of custody is well seen in the case of the Vestry Records of Westminster or the City Churchwardens' Accounts in the Guildhall.

<sup>3</sup> For further references to illustrative documents, *see* above (B). Lists of Boroughs now or formerly in the possession of records are printed in the 1919 Report (II), p. 48 *sq.*, and below, Appendix B.

<sup>4</sup> Including those relating to Guilds, Fraternities, Grammar schools, Chantries, Hospitals, Almshouses, Colleges, Conventual bodies, and Trusts.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* of temporal or spiritual lords.

<sup>6</sup> Mayors' and Apprentices' Indentures.

(a) Of Municipal Councils or Courts.<sup>1</sup>

(b) Of various Local Bodies or Institutions.<sup>2</sup>

B. Accounts.

(a) Of Municipal Authorities.<sup>3</sup>

(b) Of various Local Bodies.

C. Extents.<sup>4</sup>

Surveys, Rent Rolls, Maps, some Terriers and Inventories, Particulars of Property.

(a) Of Town Property.<sup>5</sup>

(b) Of Property of various Local Bodies or Institutions.<sup>6</sup>

D. Nominal Lists.<sup>7</sup>

List of Town Officials, etc. (Mayors, Bailiffs, Jurats, Freemen, Burgesses, Jurors); Innholders' Recognizances; Licensed Victuallers; Sacrament Certificates; Apprentices' Rolls.

### 3. Judicial Records.

(a) Writs, Warrants, Presentations (Jurors, Constables).

(b) Pleadings and Proceedings, Coroners' Inquisitions and Rolls, Court

<sup>1</sup> The following notes and variants occur: Assembly books; Annual Register; Bench book (Kingston-on-Hull); Book of Constitutions of weekly meetings; Book of Record; Burghmote books; Convocation books; Coucher books (Richmond, York); Cross book (Cambridge); Dormont book (Carlisle); Domesday-book; Ledgers; Old Lockt book (Leicester); Register books; Wardmote book; Year book; Court books; General and Petty Court book (Ipswich); Court Leet book (Bridgewater); Leet book; Orders at Court Leet (Higham Ferrars); Hundred Court book; Admiralty and Shipway books (Cinque Ports); Cutthorn books; Session Minute book.

<sup>2</sup> This includes Guild Ordinances and Regulations and Minute books and rules of various societies.

<sup>3</sup> These are locally known as Accounts of Chamberlains, Mayors, Bailiffs, Water Bailiffs, Receivers of Rent, Keepers or Governors, Sheriffs, Treasurers, Port Books, Books of Amerciaments and Estates, Rolls of Murage, Subsidies and Tolls are also included here.

<sup>4</sup> The rolls and books may contain other matters besides extents. At Axbridge the extent book is called *The Stentar*, and at Launceston *Assession of Lands*.

<sup>5</sup> In many cases Manorial. <sup>6</sup> See above (B).

<sup>7</sup> It is often difficult to draw a distinction between "Nominal Lists" and Accounts or Extents (lists of tenements, etc.), and even some groups of Diplomatic Instruments. Thus Sacrament Certificates, from the point of view of form, might be regarded almost as Diplomata; but they have been included in the present arrangement under Nominal Lists, as they are only valuable in this connexion.

of Admiralty Proceedings, Assize of Bread and Ale Proceedings ; Depositions, Process of Withernam, Guild Merchant Proceedings, Gaol Deliveries.

- (c) Corporation "Diaries," Sessions Books, Minutes, Manor Court Rolls, Enrolments of Wills, Amerciaments, Recognizance Books.

#### 4. Miscellaneous.

- (a) Semi-official and Literary MSS. ; Legal Note Books ; Chronicles ; Local Histories ; Pedigrees ; Treatises, etc.  
 (b) Private Correspondence and other Documents unconnected with the Local History.

### V. PARISH RECORDS.

#### A. HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE NOTE.

The Parish, the oldest administrative unit in England, has both a civil and an ecclesiastical aspect. It is concerned with its own civil government and with the up-keep of the Church. The latter part of its functions has existed with certain modifications to the present day, but on its civil side it has undergone much alteration.<sup>1</sup>

The statutory organization of the parish as a unit of civil administration took place principally in the 16th century. The disintegration of the existing administrative system during the Wars of the Roses may possibly have caused the parish, in some cases, to take up functions formerly exercised by the manor, and legislation may thus have only confirmed practices already established. In any case, the majority of Parish Records which have been preserved appear to date from this period. There are, however, certain important exceptions, especially the Churchwardens' Accounts, which in some instances date from the 14th century.<sup>2</sup> These accounts are of a very miscellaneous nature and occasionally they are intermixed with Constable's Accounts and parish memoranda.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> E. Jenks, *English Local Government*, pp. 21, 24.

<sup>2</sup> e.g. Accounts of St. Michael, Bath (Somerset Archæological Society, 1878).

<sup>3</sup> J. C. Cox, *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p. 323.

Besides the Churchwardens' Accounts, certain "Books of Records"<sup>1</sup> are found, dating from the 15th century. These books contain Leases, Wills, Memoranda, etc., and occasionally the constitution of the parish.

Like the municipal muniment room, the parish chest became the depository of all sorts of important documents, Wills, Leases, Manorial Records, etc. These are of all dates.<sup>2</sup>

Another rather scanty set of records, the Constables' Accounts, introduce the question as to the position of the constable in the mediæval parish. He is usually regarded as the servant of the manor, but a writ of 1252 provides for the appointment of one or two constables by each township.<sup>3</sup> If the township and parish are simply different aspects of the same organization, then the constable would have been a parish officer, unless indeed the communal administration has been overborne by the activities of the manor. In any case, from the 16th century onward, the Constable's Accounts, if extant, are often found among parish documents.

With the legislation of the Tudor period the position of the parish became clearer and the number of its records increased. The distinctive name of the parish assembly, the Vestry, now first came into common use.<sup>4</sup> The Vestry, however, apparently remained what the parish meeting had been; a primary assembly in the South; in the North frequently a body nominated by the various townships composing the parish.<sup>5</sup> Vestry minutes are found as early as the middle of the 16th century.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These are specially found amongst records belonging to city parishes (E. Freshfield).

<sup>2</sup> There is a deed dated 1287 in the Parish Chest at Tavistock (R. N. Worth, *Calendar of Tavistock Parish Records*).

<sup>3</sup> J. Ritson, *The Office of Constable*, ed. 1815, p. 15A, 18.

<sup>4</sup> Webb, *History of Local Government (Parish and County)*, p. 39.

<sup>5</sup> e.g. Ribchester, see T. Smith and J. Short's, *Parish of Ribchester*, pp. 160-163.

<sup>6</sup> e.g. Steeple Ashton, see J. Toulmin Smith, *The Parish*, p. 492.

The functions of the Vestry are numerous. In conjunction with the minister, it chose the churchwardens (who, by the Act of 1601, were *ex officio* overseers of the poor). The clergyman usually appointed the parish clerk, the appointment of the sexton and beadle often lay with the Vestry.<sup>1</sup> The Vestry selected the names of persons to serve as parish constables, which selection was approved and confirmed by the justices of the peace.<sup>2</sup> The Vestry also appointed the inferior officers, and in 1555 the appointment of the Overseers of the Highways was placed in its hands.<sup>3</sup> The Vestry further sanctioned the making of rates, Church rates, road rates, etc., and it audited the accounts of the various officers above mentioned. The Vestries again sometimes concerned themselves with inclosures and other details of land administration,<sup>4</sup> and were, of course, responsible for the records connected with these functions. They were also to provide the register books for the Parish Registers.

#### B. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RECORDS.

During the 17th century and the early part of the 18th century, select or "close" Vestries increased, but there were no very marked changes in their functions and powers. A great mass of Parish Records accrued during this period. The Act of 14 Charles II, made it obligatory on the Overseers of the Highways to submit to the parishes those accounts which had hitherto been audited by the Vestry as a matter of custom; and the General Vestries Act of 1818, made it obligatory on all Vestries to keep those minutes which many of them had

<sup>1</sup> Phillimore, *Ecclesiastical Law*, II, pp. 507, 511, etc.

<sup>2</sup> C. J. Cox, *Derbyshire Annals*, I, 105 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> 2 and 3 P. and M., c. 8.

<sup>4</sup> G. L. Gomme, *Literature of Local Institutions*, pp. 20 *et seq.*; *cf.* Mr. Sidney Webb in *Third Report of Public Records Commission*, Minutes of Evidence, Q. 7157 *sq.*

kept for over two hundred years. Meanwhile the miscellaneous documents accumulated. "Deposited" documents of the period include Indentures of Apprenticeship, Inclosure Awards, etc., while among strictly parochial documents are included Sacramental Certificates, Marriage Licences, Briefs authorizing collections,<sup>1</sup> and so forth, as well as deeds of educational or charitable endowments. The latter may be reckoned as either civil or ecclesiastical documents, according to the nature of the trust.

During the 19th century the number of deposited documents was increased by the Maps, Plans, Specifications, etc., deposited in accordance with the Parliamentary Documents Deposit Act of 1837,<sup>2</sup> and by the introduction of railways. The Drainage Act of 1861,<sup>3</sup> directed that plans of the proposed works should be deposited in some public place, which place might be the parish chest, and in 1897 the Military Manœuvres Act also declared that orders under this Act should be deposited for a given time in a public place.

Despite these orders, however, the general importance of the Parish Records diminished in the 19th century. The new Poor Law of 1834 substituted Boards of Guardians for Vestries as the administrators of Poor Relief. In 1868 Church rates were abolished, leaving to the Vestry the power to make only a voluntary rate for Church purposes. In 1872 the parish constable disappeared. Finally, in 1894, the Local Government Act stripped the rural Vestries of all their remaining powers of civil administration, handing these functions over to the newly formed Parish Councils. The Vestries retained only their ecclesiastical powers, *i.e.* the right to appoint churchwardens, to make voluntary rates, and to audit the Churchwardens' Accounts and the Accounts of

<sup>1</sup> See below, "Classified List".

<sup>2</sup> 7 W. IV and 1 Vict., c. 83.

<sup>3</sup> 24 and 25 Vict., c. 133.

Ecclesiastical charities. The Parish Councils, on the other hand, lost certain powers belonging to the old Vestries, *e.g.* all authority over Highway Administration, but they gained various other powers, such as that of appointing overseers of the poor, the management of allotments, etc.; the Council was bound to keep minutes of its proceedings and had power over previous non-ecclesiastical records; but as a rule these records, and those of the present Vestries, remained as previously provided, *i.e.* in the hands of the incumbent and churchwardens.<sup>1</sup> In Non-Metropolitan Urban Districts the former arrangements continue. In London the Act of 1899 enabled the London Borough Councils to take over the powers of all elective Vestries.<sup>2</sup>

The distribution of these records and the extent to which they have survived seems to be entirely a matter of chance. The best series of records, as a whole, appear to have belonged to some of the London parishes. Like municipal records, the records of parishes have in many cases gone into private hands. Some have been deposited in municipal collections; and others again have passed into the collections belonging to the archdeaconries in

<sup>1</sup> 56 and 57 Vict., c. 73, S. 17 (7), (8), (9). As to the custody of a divided parish, *see* S. 38 (3). The custody of the Registers of Baptisms and Burials and of Marriages is decided by the Acts of 52 Geo. III., c. 146, S. 5, and 6, and 7 W. IV, c. 86, respectively. It has been decided by a leading case (*Lewis v. Poole*, 1898, 1 Q.B. 164), that the custody of Tithe Apportionment Awards can be provided for by the Parish Council with the consent of the County Council, and this probably applies also to Inclosure Awards, etc. The Vestries Act of 1818 practically placed all parish documents, except the Parish Registers, in the custody of the incumbents. The custody of Vestry documents is presumably given by S. 19 (4), of the Local Government Act of 1894 to the Parish Council. As to the access of parishioners to the records, *see* Section 58 (4), (5).

<sup>2</sup> 62 and 63 Vict., c. 14, S. 4. The Metropolis Management Act of 1855 had dealt already with these records. The most important collections are probably those now in the custody of the Westminster City Council.



which the parishes are included ; but the main repository for these records is the parish chest in the charge of the incumbent or the Vestry clerk. Unhappily, however, the loss of parochial records is very great and it is to be feared that it still continues. In comparatively recent years a hundred parish registers are said to have disappeared, but until a thorough examination has been made of the parish chests throughout England neither the losses nor the value of the surviving records can be estimated.<sup>1</sup>

### List of Parish Officers.<sup>2</sup>

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Churchwardens. <sup>3</sup>         | Parish Clerk.          |
| Constables. <sup>4</sup>            | Vestry Clerk.          |
| Surveyors of Highways. <sup>5</sup> | Herdsman. <sup>6</sup> |
| Overseers of the Poor.              | Aleconner.             |
| Sexton.                             | Scavenger.             |
| Beadle.                             |                        |

### Classified List of Parish Records.<sup>7</sup>

#### I. Ecclesiastical Records.<sup>8</sup>

##### (a) Administrative Records :—

- Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths.<sup>9</sup>
- Records relating to Ecclesiastical Charities.

<sup>1</sup> See 1919 Report, Appx. (III), p. 591. One obvious cause of loss is that records relating to parish business ceased to have any immediate authority or value. Another is due to the treatment of the records as the personal property of the respective officers, especially when these were required to provide the book in which parish accounts or assessments were recorded.

<sup>2</sup> In parishes which exercised considerable communal functions (*e.g.* Cottenham and Kidlington) this list would be considerably enlarged.

<sup>3</sup> Also acting as Overseers of Poor.

<sup>4</sup> Also known as "Tithing-men" or "Headboroughs".

<sup>5</sup> Commonly known as "Way-wardens".

<sup>6</sup> Commonly known as the "Hog-ward" or "Neat-herd".

<sup>7</sup> Including, in certain cases, Borough or District Councils (*cf.* Section 33 of Local Government Act (1894)).

<sup>8</sup> Under the Local Government Act of 1894 (56 and 57 Vict., c. 73, S. 17 (8)), which supersedes the Vestries Act of 1818 in some respects.

<sup>9</sup> The earliest form is that of a General Register. With the above are found Registers of Banns or Bann Books. The earliest Registers include many notes of extraneous matters.

(b) Documents deposited by Statute or Custom<sup>1</sup> :—  
 Tithe Apportionment Awards and Plans.  
 Inclosure Awards.

(c) Documents casually deposited or acquired<sup>2</sup> :—  
 Briefs, Indulgences, Inventories, Licences, Certificates, Wills,  
 and documents connected with the Process of the  
 Ecclesiastical Courts.  
 Documents connected with Tithes, Glebe-lands, Manors, etc.

## 2. Civil Records.<sup>3</sup>

(a) Administrative Records connected with the functions of the following parochial officers or local authorities :—  
 Churchwardens.<sup>4</sup>  
 Overseers of the Poor.<sup>5</sup>  
 Surveyors of Highways.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The classes of records mentioned here are deposited under the Tithe Acts (1836-91) and Inclosure Acts (1801-45), the former of which, however, permit of the method of custody being varied. These Acts again seem to conflict with the Vestries Act of 1818 (58 Geo. III, c. 69, S. 6).

<sup>2</sup> These, like most of the earlier records, are usually in the custody of the incumbent.

<sup>3</sup> Under the Local Government Act (1894), S. 17 (8), *cf.* the Vestries Act (1818).

<sup>4</sup> *See Report of Local Records Committee* (1902), p. 11, and *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History*, pp. 121-122. These records are in the form of the well-known "Accounts," dating from 1349. Perhaps "Church-rate Books" should be placed here.

<sup>5</sup> These records include, besides the well-known "Rate-books," such series as Assessments, Accounts, Receipts, and Disbursements, Valuation Lists, and others. For a good collection of these records, *see* "Shropshire County Records," Meole Brace. Other titles will be found below, under the head of Documents Deposited. The records of Boards of Guardians or Incorporations of the Poor are, of course, of a Departmental nature (Local Government Board).

<sup>6</sup> *See* S. and B. Webb, *The King's Highway* (p. 33). This department also furnishes several series of records, dating from the 16th century, such as Accounts, Disbursements, and Assessments. The duties of the Surveyors are elucidated by the County Records.

Constables.<sup>1</sup>

Parish Councils.<sup>2</sup>

Vestries.<sup>3</sup>

Local Boards or Committees.<sup>4</sup>

(b) Documents deposited by Statute or Custom.<sup>5</sup>

Indentures of Apprenticeships, Lists of Apprentices and Orders.

Certificates of Settlement, etc.<sup>6</sup>

Orders of the Justices in Sessions.

Boundary Agreements.

Inclosure and Tithe Apportionment Awards and Maps.<sup>7</sup>

Plans of Roads, Railways, Waterworks, etc.

Agreements and Documents relating to Rental of Allotments.

Trust Deeds.

Public Health By-Laws.

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Disbursements of the Constables. Very few records of this nature have hitherto been noted. Probably these, like the "Sextons' Books," may be regarded as vouchers to the Churchwardens' Accounts. But *see* Hist. MSS. Com. 10th Report (Much Wenlock), and *cf.* Cox, *Derbyshire Annals*, p. 21 *sq.*

<sup>2</sup> Or Parish Meetings. The Meetings of Urban or Rural District Councils are included under this head. The series should apparently include such official documents as Appointment Books, Attendance Books, Minute Books, Letter Books, Order or Precept Books, and Original Correspondence. Certain related documents, which may be found here, are noted below amongst "Documents Deposited".

<sup>3</sup> Including the well-known "Vestry Minutes". As to other records (such as Order Books, Memoranda, etc.), in the custody of Vestries or Parish Meetings, *see Report on Local Records*, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Especially those formed under the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1883. Amongst the documents which may be classified in this series are Orders of the Charity Commissioners, lists of recipients of charitable funds, Schemes and Schedules of Charitable Trusts, Accounts, etc.

<sup>5</sup> These include documents deposited under the Parliamentary Documents Deposit Act of 1837, and the Railway Clauses Consolidation Act of 1845; but, besides these, many documents usually deposited with clerks of the peace from a much earlier date may be found in parish chests.

<sup>6</sup> These should form an extensive series from 1698 to 1834. Other certificates to be found relate to vagrants, bastardy, apprentices, burials in woollen, sacrament, highways.

<sup>7</sup> *See* above, 1 (b).

- (c) Documents casually deposited or acquired.<sup>1</sup>  
 Court Rolls and Manorial Accounts.<sup>2</sup>  
 Deeds, Leases, and Wills.  
 Inventories.  
 Accounts.  
 Correspondence.  
 Terriers and Rentals.  
 Documents relating to Guilds and Charities.

## VI. CHURCH RECORDS.<sup>3</sup>

### A. HISTORICAL NOTE.

In the mediæval period many of the powers exercised by ecclesiastics were derived from the Papacy; allegiance was owed to the Pope as well as to the King, and appeals in matters ecclesiastical were ultimately brought before the Roman Curia.<sup>4</sup> In other ways the Church presented a dual aspect. It was a temporal magnate with secular affairs and estates to manage. It was also a spiritual authority directing the spiritual life of the country and presiding in the courts Christian,<sup>5</sup> whose procedure differed greatly from that of the Royal Courts of Justice. Such facts will be very relevant to an attempted classification of ecclesiastical records, and we shall find that the series that have survived present some important variations from those of the secular authorities.

After the Reformation and the consequent changes made,<sup>6</sup> the foreign authority was swept away and the

<sup>1</sup> It would seem to depend on a variety of circumstances whether these documents are now preserved in ecclesiastical or civil custody.

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* W. A. Fearon, *Hampshire Registers*, p. 114 (East Meon).

<sup>3</sup> Including the records of Religious Bodies generally.

<sup>4</sup> The claims of the Papacy, however, as is well known, were frequently disputed by the Crown, with varying success.

<sup>5</sup> For a history of the Courts, see Bishop Stubbs, *Historical Appendix to 1883 Report of Commission on Ecclesiastical Courts*, and Holdsworth, *History of English Law*. *Cf.* also Taunton, *Law of the Church*, and Phillimore, *Ecclesiastical Law*.

<sup>6</sup> John Lely, *Church of England's Position from the Statutes*; Prothero, *Documents*.

Crown became the ultimate source of appeal. By the 19th century the judicial functions of the Church were on the decrease, and many were then abolished or revised and some transferred to the civil authorities.<sup>1</sup> The administration of ecclesiastical estates was reorganized under the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.<sup>2</sup>

From the middle of the 16th century there are also Catholic, and from the 17th century Protestant Non-conformists, to be considered.

After 1598 the Roman Catholics in England were under the control of an Archpriest, who, in 1623, was given the rank of Vicar-Apostolic. At the Restoration four vicariates were formed, which seem to have been served by mission-priests from Douai and other English Colleges abroad.

The form of Church government adopted by the various denominations of the Protestant Nonconformists was a system of local and central committees meeting periodically, but the relations of these organizations with the records in their custody will be referred to below.<sup>3</sup>

## B. DESCRIPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE RECORDS.

### (1) Metropolitan, Diocesan, Capitular, and Archidiaconal Records.<sup>4</sup>

Before turning to an examination of the records it may make for clearness to note in passing some of the powers exercised by ecclesiastical authorities. Leaving aside their temporal functions of administering large secular estates, we seem to discern a twofold division in the spiritual powers of archbishops or bishops. There are those that belong to their order and those that belong to their office. In the former, such as ordination,

<sup>1</sup> 53 Geo. III, c. 127; 20 and 21 Vict., c. 77 and c. 85.

<sup>2</sup> 6 and 7 Wm. IV, c. 77; *see* 1919 Report, III, p. 44 *sq.*, for records under their control.

<sup>3</sup> P. 140.

<sup>4</sup> For Parish Records, *see* above, p. 126.

they could be assisted only by suffragans. In the latter, two aspects are again apparent.<sup>1</sup> On the one hand is the power of administering the province or diocese; this includes instituting to benefices, issuing of various licences, conducting visitations, etc. On the other hand is the power of holding courts,<sup>2</sup> both of First Instance and Appeal, of granting marriage licences, and dealing with testamentary matters. The archbishop or bishop could delegate all, or any, of the powers belonging to his office to a Vicar-General or a Suffragan<sup>3</sup>; in practice, the judicial powers were delegated to an Official Principal, Ordinary, Commissary, or Surrogate,<sup>4</sup> leaving the administrative side for the Vicar-General where one was appointed.

The powers of an archdeacon ranged from a simple right of inspection and inquiry as the bishop's vicar to the exercise of a concurrent jurisdiction with that of the bishop himself, usually limited to his archdeaconry. By ancient custom he had the right of examining persons to be ordained and of inducting persons instituted. The official functions of archdeacons were codified and regulated by an Act of 1837.

Mention must also be made of the jurisdiction of the Peculiars, which appears to have originated in some seignorial right, and was exercised by many ecclesiastics<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *cf.* Gibson, *Codex Juris Anglicani*, Intro. xxii, and p. 986, where the processes are classified as voluntary and contentious respectively.

<sup>2</sup> The Provincial Courts for Canterbury were the Court of Audience, Prerogative Court (testamentary), and Court of Arches; for York, the Court of Audience and the Chancery Court. The ordinary Court of the Diocese was the Consistory Court.

<sup>3</sup> Suffragans were assigned statutory provisions by 26 H. VIII, c. 14; amended, 1888 and 1898.

<sup>4</sup> In some cases the functions of a Vicar-General and Official Principal were combined in the office of the Chancellor.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* by the higher clergy and also by rectors of certain parishes and members of Cathedral Chapters, the jurisdiction was usually confined to testamentary cases, and was limited to their own dioceses by later Ecclesiastical Commissions.

and by the Crown, either in person or by the appointment of an official. Sometimes the lord of the manor had power of granting probate in the manorial court.

The powers of the Chapter covered the administration of secular estates, and during voidance of the See, of the diocese or province.

If each of the above authorities had produced a separate series of records representing the different aspects of their separate functions, or even if each authority possessed one separate repository, the classification of the records would have proved a less difficult task. In fact, the provincial records of Canterbury and York<sup>1</sup> cannot be sharply distinguished from the diocesan; nor will the surviving collections of either class of records be found in a single repository. The older records, before the establishment of a registry,<sup>2</sup> were stored in the episcopal palace or the cathedral, and traces of such practice exist to-day when we find the records in many of the dioceses distributed between the registry, the palace, and the cathedral, either by prescription or arrangement with the Dean and Chapter.<sup>3</sup> The records of archdeacons may be found in an archidiaconal or an episcopal registry, or even among the archives of the Dean and Chapter.<sup>4</sup> The Reformation produced new repositories, those of the Court of Faculties and the Vicar-General's Court,<sup>5</sup> while

<sup>1</sup> The records of the Provincial Courts of Canterbury are kept apart from the Diocesan Records; yet those of York are preserved in the same registry. The archiepiscopal registers of Canterbury contain both provincial and diocesan business.

<sup>2</sup> 25 H. VIII, C. 21.

<sup>3</sup> *e.g.* in London and Exeter.

<sup>4</sup> There is a general lack of uniformity as to the custody of these records. They should be best preserved where the archdeaconry is that of the cathedral town or where there is a separate registry (*cf.* 1902 Report, Appx., p. 118 *et seq.*, and 1919 Report (*passim*)).

<sup>5</sup> *cf.* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 101. These courts are, in effect, registries.

the records of the High Court of Delegates passed into State custody. The legislative changes of the 19th century have created the Principal and District Probate Registries. These should have absorbed all records relating to testamentary and some for divorce matters, and, therefore, include some records of Peculiars. In numerous instances, however, non-testamentary cases have been brought into the civil registries, whilst testamentary matters are included amongst those in ecclesiastical custody. These discrepancies are being gradually adjusted by official arrangement.

Turning in more detail to the contents of these various repositories it will be seen that a classification of the records according to form can only be made on paper, as it cuts across the existing distribution and arrangement. Yet such an attempt is at least worth making because it will give the best survey of the material to be dealt with.

The three broad divisions of Diplomatic, Administrative, and Judicial Documents made in other sections of this work are therefore retained as far as possible with sub-divisions, to denote the temporal and spiritual aspects of the records.<sup>1</sup>

Dealing first with spiritual matters, instruments emanating from the archbishops will not be found in a separate register or confined to the registers of their own provinces, and the same observation may be made in respect of papal and episcopal instruments. The Administrative Records include Act Books<sup>2</sup> and other records analogous to temporal records. Under the head

<sup>1</sup> In some cases (*e.g.* York), an attempt is made to distinguish between spiritual and temporal matters in early rolls.

<sup>2</sup> Chapter Act Books may be compared with Minute Books of Corporations and contain important matters relating to temporal administration. In so far as they are a day book they also reflect the spiritual activities and are therefore given both under spiritual and temporal.



of Judicial Records, the Court Books form the most important series.<sup>1</sup>

The Visitation Records of archbishops, bishops, and archdeacons in respect of cathedrals, monastic houses, churches, and parishes, are of a distinctive, judicial, and administrative character, and are classified accordingly.

In connexion with spiritual jurisdictions generally it is important to remember that on the vacancy of a See or of the primacy, the work was carried on, during voidance, by an official appointed by the archbishop (or the capitular body of the metropolitanical see during voidance), and his acts were entered as a general rule, not in the register of the diocese to which he was appointed, but in the provincial or capitular register. There were, however, exceptions to this practice.

Among Temporal Records are classed all those dealing with the management of secular estates and with the relations with the central government. Such instruments are entered on the register. Episcopal and Capitular Records include muniments of title and records of temporal administration. The archdeacon would appear to have no such records; for records of estates apart from his office we have apparently to go to the Chapter archives.

(2) Roman Catholic and Protestant Nonconformist Records.

Since, as was stated above, the English Roman Catholics were administered from abroad,<sup>2</sup> the records must be sought for chiefly among the English Colleges abroad. There are some in this country consisting chiefly of correspondence<sup>3</sup> and baptismal and other

<sup>1</sup> See 1832 Report on Ecclesiastical Courts and Archdeacon Hale's, *Precedents and Proceedings in Criminal Causes* (1475-1640).

<sup>2</sup> Information is preserved in the Archiepiscopal collection at Westminster.

<sup>3</sup> Some have been dealt with by Hist. MSS. Commission (4th Report, Appx.), and in publications of the Catholic Record Society; see also 1902 Report, Appx., p. 253, and 1919 Report, Appx., p. 86.

registers. Monastic Records of the first Province are now scattered.<sup>1</sup> Those in England are in the possession of the Crown and in public and private collections and with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and a few survive among the records of the Dean and Chapter of new foundations (1541). The 17th century legislation produced new series of records<sup>2</sup> for both Catholic and Protestant Nonconformists, but these will be found either in central archives or amongst County, or Municipal, or Diocesan Records.

The most important class of record kept by the Protestant Nonconformists may be regarded as the Minute Books, in which all details of administration and discipline were usually entered.<sup>3</sup>

The central authority of each of the principal denominations, namely, the Society of Friends, the Independents (Congregational Union), the General Baptists' Assembly, the Unitarians (British and Foreign Unitarian Association), the Moravians (Provincial Elders Conference), the Presbyterians (General Synod), and the United Methodist Free Churches, possesses a repository for its records. Generally speaking, each church or meeting keeps its own records, and for some denominations there are also

<sup>1</sup> It would be useful to know to what extent these Orders have brought back their muniments to this country; these would supply valuable materials for the religious history of the post Reformation period. The Benedictines and others have documents of a definitely official character. For the nature of some of these records, see J. Morris, S.J., *Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers*, Ser. 1, p. 1 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Schoolmasters' Certificates from Act of Uniformity, 14 Chas. II, Sacrament Certificates from Test Act, etc. New statutory oaths were constantly prescribed. Cf. R. G. Usher, Royal Historical Society, 3rd Series, Vol. VIII, on "Classis" records.

<sup>3</sup> Their position in the state has been the subject of legislation, and thus records relating to them under various statutes will be found both in public and local archives. Common instances are licences of meeting-houses found among Quarter Sessions as well as Consistory Court Records.

records of District and Connexional Committees. These are frequently placed in the custody of local Nonconformist Colleges. Trust deeds and similar documents are often in custody of solicitors or of banks.<sup>1</sup> The publications of the various historical societies of the denominations should be consulted as well as the 1902 Report.

There is a National Council of Evangelical Free Churches and also a number of Missionary Societies whose records should be of importance, besides lesser bodies of Nonconformists, such as Plymouth Brethren and Bible Christians and the Free Episcopal Churches.

For the records of Dutch and French Huguenots in England, see the publications of the Huguenot Society.

(3) The records of the Jewish community are briefly described in *Bibliotheca-Anglo-Judaica*—the section on MSS. sources of Anglo-Jewish history—(Anglo-Jewish Historical Exhibition Publications, No. 3). An important collection at Bevis Marks Synagogue carries the records of the community back to 1664 with a few earlier deeds of 1657 relating to the purchase of a cemetery. The Minute Books of the Board of Deputies begin in the 17th century and form almost a complete series down to modern times.

### Classified List of Ecclesiastical Records.

#### 1. Diocesan and Archidiaconal Registries and Cathedral Archives.

##### 1. Diplomatic Documents :—

(a) Secular.<sup>2</sup>

(b) Ecclesiastical.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Enrolments are frequently found in the Chancery Close Rolls or in the Decree and Order Books of the Court of Chancery. Notices also occur amongst the Chancery Masters' Documents.

<sup>2</sup> Royal, seignorial, and private charters, deeds and other documents similar to the muniments of title in private collections. They may be found as originals, but are commonly entered in registers or cartularies.

<sup>3</sup> These, whether originals or inrolments, can be distinguished as to their source, as papal, metropolitanical, episcopal, etc. The most

## 2. Administrative Documents :—

(a) Accounts.<sup>1</sup>(b) Official Proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

numerous and most typical forms are the *episcopal* instruments, *i.e.* ordinances, constitutions, regulations, commissions, injunctions, mandates, and monitions, indulgences, pardons, protections, recommendations, dispensations, denunciations, licences, faculties, certificates, testimonials, letters of confraternity; articles of visitation; articles of inquiry; interrogatories; grants of advowson, of obits, chantries, union and partition of benefices, appropriations; letters dimissory, ordinations, letters of orders, collations and presentations, consecrations, institutions, installations and inductions, prohibitions, inhibitions, relaxations, requisitions, sequestrations; nominations to offices, appointments, oaths for admission, subscriptions, suspensions, notifications of elections; wills, probates, letters of administration, marriage licences, bonds, affidavits, etc.; petitions, appeals, protests, briefs, answers, libels, remonstrances, complaints, declarations, citations and depositions, fiats, caveats, cautions, sentences and awards; articles of faith, letters, pastoral and private.

*Papal* instruments include bulls, letters, writs, rescripts, commissions, privileges, mandates, exemplifications, ordinances, and various licences; the *metropolitcal* types include letters, mandates, commissions and faculties. In the *capitular* collections are found also patents of registrars, oaths of admission to chapter elections; installations are characteristic. The *archidiaconal* instruments, if we may distinguish such, are documents under seal of the archdeacon's court, and similar in type to those of the bishop, but less numerous, *e.g.* inductions, monitions, licences and schoolmasters' and other certificates. There are no types specially characteristic of Peculiar jurisdiction.

<sup>1</sup> Secular Accounts include: assessments of taxation, subsidies, scutages, levies, returns of taxations, acquittances, balance sheets, proctors' taxed bills, rolls of payment, rolls of allowances and accounts of administration; lists of salaries and pensions, pittances, returns of commissioners as to glebe houses, tallies and bills; household accounts, bailiffs' and manorial accounts, and travelling expenses. Amongst Ecclesiastical Accounts, may be mentioned Commissioners' and Treasurers' Accounts, rolls of obedientiaries and vicars choral, priory rolls, fabric rolls, court fee books and tables of fees; procurations, synodals, accounts of keepers of shrines, oblations, obits, accounts of subsidiary bodies, almshouses, chantries, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Among Secular Proceedings we find various acts and compilations in the shape of act books, registers, or other precedent books which include proceedings of royal officials and others. Amongst the Ecclesiastical Proceedings are episcopal registers, act books, institution and

(c) Extents, Inventories.<sup>1</sup>

(d) Nominal Lists.<sup>2</sup>

3. Judicial Documents :—

(a) Relating to Secular Jurisdictions.<sup>3</sup>

(b) Relating to Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions.<sup>4</sup>

ordination books, chapter act books, convocations books, sealing books, and proceedings of vicars choral, etc. The earlier episcopal registers sometimes resemble cartularies (*e.g.* at Salisbury). There are sometimes separate registers of temporalities. The term register is usually applied to the episcopal act books, and documents received are entered as well as documents issued. Business relating to temporal estates is often found, and wills and probates and proceedings at visitations occur.

After the Reformation, some classes of instruments usually form separate series, *e.g.* the institution and ordination books; books of wills, administrations and faculties; presentments, depositions, and allegations as well as marriage bonds, banns, subscriptions, and obits. A register may approximate to a precedent book or formula book. After the Reformation, official commonplace or memoranda books are frequent, containing proclamations, narratives of important occurrences, addresses, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Among Secular documents there are divers kinds of surveys, rentals, feodaries; maps, plans, perambulations, etc.; valuations, etc. On the Ecclesiastical side, terriers, tithe awards, apportionments, and plans; surveys of churches; inventories for probate; inventories made at visitations, *e.g.* of plate, goods, ornaments, relics, catalogues of books, muniments, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Lists of Secular and Ecclesiastical persons, including tenants, villeins, mayors, bailiffs, widows, etc.; bishops and incumbents, chapter members, vicars choral and choristers, benefactors, churchwardens, etc., drawn up at visitations; also of qualified surgeons, physicians, schoolmasters; midwives; recusants, nonconformists, communicants, and excommunicated persons; meeting-houses, monastic houses, hospitals; mortuary rolls, returns of penances, transcripts of parish registers, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Exemplifications, transcripts or notes of pleas in royal courts; Local, Manorial, and Borough Court Rolls, Court Leet Records, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Copies and transcripts of proceedings in the Roman Curia; awards, proceedings before delegates, briefs, warrants, commissions, and other subsidiary records. Consistory court books are preserved as a single or double series for criminal and civil cases; correction books, of causes *ex officio*, defamation and various offences against morals and discipline: Instance Books of actions between parties in marriage and testamentary causes, and tithe disputes. The subsidiary books are registers of allegations,

4. Visitation Records.<sup>1</sup>
5. Miscellaneous :—
  - (a) Records of a public nature.<sup>2</sup>
  - (b) Various.

## II. Records of Nonconformist Bodies.

1. Roman Catholic :—
  - (a) Ecclesiastical.<sup>3</sup>
  - (b) Monastic.<sup>4</sup>
2. Protestant Nonconformist Bodies<sup>5</sup> :—
  - (a) Society of Friends and early religious sects.
  - (b) Baptists and Methodists, and later, Nonconformist Bodies.

depositions, and of many other instruments. Original instruments are enumerated under Diplomatic Documents. The archdeacon's Consistory Court Records are similar to the bishop's.

The Records of Peculiars depend on the nature of the jurisdiction. Probate Records are the most common.

<sup>1</sup> They may be summarized as commissions and mandates to visitors and officials, inhibitions of inferior jurisdictions, articles of inquiry in form of originals or entered in registers and books, returns, answers, depositions, resulting orders and injunctions, numerous certificates and nominal lists. For parishes there are churchwardens and sidesmen's oaths, admissions and presentments, transcripts of registers, etc., and many inventories.

Copies of Visitation Records were often kept by monasteries and particular churches if of importance.

<sup>2</sup> The 1800 Report notices many records of this class. The collection of such records at Westminster is still of considerable importance.

<sup>3</sup> Bulls, briefs, petitions, etc., relating to Roman Catholic mission: orders, regulations, letters relating to colleges, persons, etc. Chapter Records, memoirs, diaries, epitaphs, reports, etc. Extracts from rentals, registers, baptismal, etc. Nominal lists—obituary, of imprisoned secular and regular priests, presidents of institutions, students, writers, etc. Admissions of regulars. Attestations to pilgrims. Visitation books and subsidiary papers. Treatises, extracts, narratives, histories of institutions and persons. Controversial writings. Correspondence.

<sup>4</sup> Monastic Records of similar general type to Capitular, comprising muniments of title, Chapter Records, obedientiaries, fabric rolls, mortuary rolls, lists of obits, etc., but there are no Judicial Records except Manorial. There is usually a large miscellaneous collection. Modern collections contain fewer records of temporal side, and much of a personal nature.

<sup>5</sup> See 1902 Report. The collections contain correspondence; baptismal and other registers, accounts, books of proceedings, minute books, and nominal lists. Registers of births, etc., have been partially collected, and placed at Somerset House. See Registrar-General's Report (1912).

## VII. MUNIMENTS OR COLLECTIONS OF LITERARY INSTITUTIONS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL OR TRADING CORPORATIONS, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

### A. HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE NOTE.

This section includes certain local records that were defined by the Local Records Committee in 1902 as being of a "semi-public nature," as well as others of a "private nature," a distinction which is not always helpful to the student of history.<sup>1</sup> The records of central authorities and ecclesiastical and municipal corporations have been separately dealt with in former sections. Again, various public institutions, such as municipal libraries and museums, are either in the nature of public trusts or are actually municipal departments. Besides these, a considerable number of libraries and museums have been established by academic and other corporations, or learned societies, for public or private use.<sup>2</sup> To the above may be added some collections which have not hitherto been recognized as potential sources for the economic and social history of this country.<sup>3</sup>

The scope of the present section will be seen from the Classified List given below. The selection of the documents is necessarily an arbitrary one, as no general survey or classification of the contents of the existing collections has hitherto been attempted. It will be evident, however, that these documents can be roughly

<sup>1</sup> One of the problems of historical research is to account for documents dispersed in divers custodies. Thus records relating to Church Estates and Livings under the Commonwealth are to be found in the British Museum, Bodleian, Lambeth, and Sion College Libraries, as well as in the Public Record Office (1919 Report, Appx. (III), p. 82).

<sup>2</sup> Such as university and college libraries or muniment rooms.

<sup>3</sup> Such as Friendly Societies and trades of public utility, *e.g.* railway, canal, water, lighting companies, etc. These may, perhaps, some day possess the same value as the records of the town guilds, which have now been mostly absorbed in the town records or acquired by various collectors.

grouped in two divisions, according to their ownership, by a governing body or by the head of a family respectively.

The first of these divisions includes certain types which have been in existence for several centuries,<sup>1</sup> whilst others are of comparatively recent date.<sup>2</sup> No clear distinction can be made between the several kinds of institutions, corporations, and societies in respect of their archives, and the description of such as appear to be of historical value can only be provisional.<sup>3</sup>

It will be seen from the Classified List that certain corporations and institutions or societies approach somewhat closely the position of the statutory authorities previously dealt with.<sup>4</sup> Thus, scientific and literary institutions generally are affected by a series of enactments dating from the middle of the 19th century.<sup>5</sup>

Libraries and museums, which form part of the same

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* university colleges, hospitals, and almshouses, so far as they can be regarded as private corporations.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* most of the "public utility" and trading corporations.

<sup>3</sup> The conventional classification of corporations as "sole" or "aggregate," "ecclesiastical" or "lay," "eleemosynary" or "civil," does not immediately affect the character of the archives. It is difficult, in practice to distinguish between corporations and companies, whether commercial or industrial, "chartered," "joint-stock," or "regulated". At the same time, these bodies were closely associated with the guilds or societies which preceded the modern trusts.

<sup>4</sup> Amongst literary institutions the valuable contents of the Royal Institution and other central archives are well known; but there are others outside the Metropolitan area, such as the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich, which have also acquired documents of public interest. As to the increasing importance of local museums, as repositories of historical sources see *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History*, pp. 40 *seq.*

<sup>5</sup> Especially the Acts of 1843, 1850, 1852, 1854, 1890, 1891, 1908. The Schools of Science and Art hereby provided for are not included, as there is no evidence that their records have, or will acquire hereafter, any historical value.



group, have been similarly provided for by legislation.<sup>1</sup> It will also be observed that the distinction between the above institutions and the group of so-called "Learned Societies" is a somewhat fine one,<sup>2</sup> and the conventional list of these societies includes "Institutes" or "Institutions," "Associations," "Clubs," and "Schools". At the same time, some of these societies perform functions similar to those of the mediæval guilds in connexion with the protection or advancement of their respective interests or the discipline of their own members.<sup>3</sup> The group is a large one, but the great majority of the societies concerned with various branches of science have not seriously interested themselves in the original sources for the history of those studies.<sup>4</sup> There are also a large number of modern societies concerned with religious, educational, charitable, philanthropic, or humane objects, including the enforcement of existing legislation. The importance of their archives may be considerable; but we have seen that the more influential bodies are central in respect of their establishments.<sup>5</sup> The most interesting

<sup>1</sup> In 1891, 1892, and 1901, but parish libraries were regulated by legislation as far back as 1708. Commissioners were appointed under the Public Libraries Act of 1855.

<sup>2</sup> As to the status of these societies, *see* the Acts of Parliament relating thereto from 1843 to 1908 and the Classified List below. The great central professional societies have actually a statutory position, and their archives have, to some extent, the force of records (*cf.* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 169 *seq.*).

<sup>3</sup> These functions are exercised by central societies (including the Stationers' Company, Trinity House, etc.), which are regulating bodies; but there are many local societies representing coroners, clerks of the peace, the legal, medical, and other professions, as well as the friendly societies at large and the so-called trade protection societies. Notaries and scriveners may be mentioned here.

<sup>4</sup> In some cases valuable documents have been casually acquired. The archives of the older societies are, in some cases, of considerable value. In the present day there is a tendency to adopt historical methods of research in dealing with the earlier history of scientific study.

<sup>5</sup> For lists of these societies, *see* London and County Directories: *cf.* *Urkund-wesen der Europäischen Staaten* (1913), pp. 225 *sq.*

of all these types for students of archives are naturally the Historical and Archæological Societies, a select list of which has been printed elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

The charitable institutions of early foundation have either survived the dissolution of the colleges and guilds at the Reformation,<sup>2</sup> or have been established since by public or private benefactions. Some colleges, hospitals, "God's houses," almshouses, and guilds possess valuable muniments, which have been described by the Historical Manuscripts' Commission or by local historians. Information as to these records has also been preserved by the Charity Commissioners, whose archives include MS. Reports on Charities omitted from the printed Reports or founded since their issue. In the archives of this central Commission numerous original deeds or inrolments are preserved, besides accounts and correspondence relating thereto.<sup>3</sup> The modern hospital is an academic as well as a clinical institution, and in some cases it possesses important documents of scientific interest and even manorial title-deeds, in addition to its domestic archives.<sup>4</sup> Probably, however, there has been a tendency for the records of religious colleges and urban hospitals or guilds to fall into the hands of the local ecclesiastical and municipal bodies.

Academic, professional, and trading Corporations have, as the common object of their existence, the furtherance of their respective interests. They differ, however, in degree as repositories of historical archives.

<sup>1</sup> H. Hall, *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History* (Appx.).

<sup>2</sup> 37 Hen. VIII, c. 4, and 1 Ed. VI, c. 14.

<sup>3</sup> For details, see the 1914 Report, Appx., p. 31, and Minutes of Evidence. For guides to the local records, see Introduction.

<sup>4</sup> Provincial hospitals are not usually of such early foundation as the Metropolitan institutions, nor are they probably possessed of valuable records. Their administrative archives, however, should be of historical as well as scientific interest; cf. St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Ed. N. Moore). The records of the Royal Universal Dispensary for Children (dating from 1707) are deposited in the Public Record Office.

Naturally the older universities, colleges, and schools are richly endowed with historical sources which are to be found both in their libraries and muniment rooms, and these collections are among the most important of our Local Records. Their public nature is frequently assumed, but although their property and policy have been regulated by statute, while they are closely related in other respects to charitable trusts, the public have not access to their records as a matter of right or custom.<sup>1</sup>

Professional or trading corporations, on the other hand, are more independent of statutory control, but probably possess, with a few notable exceptions, less extensive and continuous collections of records owing to inevitable vicissitudes. The records of great professional corporations, like the Inns of Court, are of a quasi-academic nature and the most important of these collections are found in the Metropolis.

Amongst the trading companies are some which occupy a quasi-statutory position; but their importance is mainly due to their position in the Metropolitan area. Thus Lloyd's, which now comprises a chartered Corporation, an Exchange, and a Shipping Registry, and which is possessed of some interesting records, has no provincial counterpart herein. On the other hand, the Metropolitan Records may at any time be removed to one of the home counties, as in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board,<sup>2</sup> which, however, is a statutory authority. The Bank of England<sup>3</sup> and the London Stock Exchange occupy a

<sup>1</sup> Access to this class of documents is facilitated by the description of their contents in printed lists.

<sup>2</sup> For a description of these, *see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 196.

<sup>3</sup> A large repository of documents belonging to the Bank of England has been established at Barnes. Amongst its activities on behalf of the Government the Bank formerly maintained an Audit Office, where duplicates of the records of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery were preserved from 1726 to the Judicature Act of 1875.

unique position in a group of trading companies which are widely distributed. Reference has been made elsewhere<sup>1</sup> to the national consequence and public nature of these records, but this observation does not apply to the provincial bodies, although their muniments will be of considerable interest to future students of economic history. A valuable collection of documents relating to Banking has been brought together in the Museum of the Bankers' Institute (St. Clement's Lane, E.C.).

It should be remembered that valuable contributions to economic and social history are derived from the records of trading companies, some of which have come into the State archives or public institutions,<sup>2</sup> whilst others are still in custody of the existing corporations.<sup>3</sup>

The Public Utility Companies are merely distinguished from the last-named owing to supervision exercised by the State and the possibility of an eventual devolution of ownership. Amongst these the most notable records are those of the older railway companies and collieries; but many original colliery records have been preserved in official custody in connexion with Chancery suits.

The historical muniments or collections in the possession of private individuals must be regarded as wholly unrestrained by any form of State control. At the same time it is well known that they may include Judicial Records, State Papers, and Local Records which have been improperly acquired by the present owner or his predecessors in title. In some cases documents thus

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, p. xviii, and below, pp. 172-174.

<sup>2</sup> Among the records of so-called expired Commissions, *e.g.* the Royal African Company; among the Treasury Records, and among a vast assortment of exhibits known as the "Chancery Masters' Documents". Others (*e.g.* Stationers' Company), have been deposited in the Public Record Office.

<sup>3</sup> See above, pp. 97-107, for another aspect of these corporations.

misappropriated<sup>1</sup> have been recovered by the State, but in other cases no action has been taken and numerous Public Records have been sold out of the country, being not only a loss in themselves but also diminishing the value of the remainder of the official series.<sup>2</sup> Again great losses have been incurred through the destruction of the contents of private muniment rooms by fire or negligent custody. Even where the documents have survived they are usually unarranged and undescribed, and they are frequently inaccessible to students except under irksome conditions. On the other hand in some cases owners are remarkably generous and helpful, and individual manuscripts are occasionally deposited in some public library for the convenience of students.

It has been noted under the head of correspondence preserved in official archives that a considerable quantity of family papers have been acquired by forfeiture of estates, or by voluntary deposit or sale. Many other papers of this description have been destroyed amongst the miscellaneous records of the Courts of Justice, weeded out from time to time.<sup>3</sup>

Private collections may be conveniently distinguished as "inherited" and "made" collections respectively. The latter are far less numerous than the former and are of unequal value. In course of time most of them are absorbed by public institutions.

Inherited collections are normally composed of two elements; (a) Manorial Records and title-deeds; (b) family letters and papers. A third element consisting of

<sup>1</sup>The removal of State Papers by Secretaries of State and other Ministers was clearly forbidden since the reign of Queen Elizabeth and these were sometimes recovered under a royal warrant. Ministers abroad were strictly required by their instructions to leave all papers in the archives for their successors; *cf.* 1919 Report, Appx. (II), p. 37.

<sup>2</sup>The judicial authorities in later times have had no exact knowledge of the nature or value of archives or of the conditions of their custody.

<sup>3</sup>*cf.* H. Hall, *Antiquities, etc., of the Exchequer*, p. 92.

documents of a public or semi-public nature may or may not be present.

Though many Manorial Records have been transferred to the State archives and to several public institutions, an untold number is still preserved in family collections. As these title-deeds passed with the land from one holder to another, families, whose connection with an estate is of comparatively recent date, may possess records illustrating the history of the district for several centuries. Records of various types of manors are also to be found, from the liberties, honours, or fiefs, formerly in the possession of the baronage or religious houses, down to the single manor, which was often co-terminous with the parish or township.

These collections not only illustrate the local environment of the family and of the community, but they also form an invaluable source for the study of economic and social history.

Diplomatic documents seem to form the bulk of the manorial class, most collections being especially rich in these ancient deeds,<sup>1</sup> frequently dating from the 12th century. The Administrative Records<sup>2</sup> include manorial surveys and extents, bailiff's accounts, customaries of manors, and maps showing the distribution of land in the manor, and forming in many cases valuable supplements to the earlier written surveys and extents. The Judicial Records are represented by the rolls of the manor courts.<sup>3</sup>

Among the family papers the principal types are private letters, marriage-settlement deeds, and other legal documents of a personal character, copies of wills,

<sup>1</sup> Including charters, confirmations, demises, final concords, releases, quitclaims, bonds, leases, certificates, wills, letters, corrodies, etc.

<sup>2</sup> In this class are also found rentals, inventories of stock, lists of holdings and tenants, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Courts baron and court leets.

inventories, household accounts, pedigrees, memoirs, diaries, accounts of travel, and other documents of a literary character.

The documents of a public or semi-public character to be found in private collections are chiefly those acquired by members of the family in their capacity as heads of departments of State or as holding administrative offices in central or local government; consequently, they may include almost any type of document.

It will be evident from the foregoing remarks on the nature and distribution of these sources, and from the subjoined "Classified List," that no comprehensive or definite classification of the several types can yet be attempted. This is due partly to their inaccessibility and partly to lack of arrangement and description. The following scheme of classification must therefore be regarded as quite provisional and as strictly limited to the more accessible types.

### **Classified List of Local Archives of a Semi-Public or Private Nature.**

#### 1. Institutions, Societies, and Clubs.

Scientific and Literary Institutions.<sup>1</sup>

Societies<sup>2</sup> :—

Learned Societies.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See above as to the several types and their close relationship with societies and other bodies.

<sup>2</sup> These are not classified on any intelligent plan in the Directories, and include some societies which, though not regarded as "Learned," have an intimate knowledge of certain local records (*e.g.* the "Commons' and Footpaths' Preservation Society"). They also include academies, few examples of which occur in this country. The suppressed "Corresponding Societies" (1793-1820) are of historical interest, and a few stray archives have been preserved amongst official records; they were ostensibly Friendly Societies. The true "Secret Society" has no use for documentary records.

<sup>3</sup> Including scientific, literary, historical, archæological, economic, and philosophical societies, with some of a more practical nature, such as agricultural, horticultural, and photographic societies, and the freemasons.

Professional Societies.<sup>1</sup>

Religious and Charitable Societies.<sup>2</sup>

Industrial and Provident Societies.<sup>3</sup>

Clubs<sup>4</sup> :—

Social.

Political.

Industrial.

Charitable Institutions.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Corporate Bodies.

Academic Corporations<sup>6</sup> :—

Universities.

Colleges.

Schools.

<sup>1</sup> Including the legal, medical, teaching, actuarial, engineering, and other professions.

<sup>2</sup> Including educational schemes. The records of the early religious societies are of considerable historical value (*cf.* Andrews and Davenport, *Report on Minor London Archives* (1908)). The registration of all charitable collectors under a recent statute should eventually assist to define the status of the whole class.

<sup>3</sup> As to industrial and provident societies generally, *see* the regulating Acts passed between 1891 and 1898, and the rules respecting Approved Societies made under the National Health Insurance Act (1911). Such bodies as land societies are really trading companies. The position of Chambers of Commerce is at present uncertain, but these successors of the old merchant guilds may soon obtain a statutory authority.

<sup>4</sup> The distinction between a club and a society is not always apparent, but the former is more directly regulated by statute. As to this, *cf.* the 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 103. A few clubs should possess archives of historical interest.

<sup>5</sup> For their titles, *see* local directories and histories, and especially the *Victoria County Histories*.

<sup>6</sup> Corporations of ancient date do not necessarily possess archives of historical value, while some of recent date have acquired valuable collections. For a description of these local records, *see* Gross, *Sources and Literature*, the 1800 Report on Public Records, the Reports of the Historical MSS. Commission, the printed Catalogues (especially for Cambridge, by Dr. M. R. James), the publications of the Oxford Historical and Cambridge Antiquarian Societies, and the Standard Histories of Eton, Winchester, etc. Some schools should properly be classed as charities, whilst others are State establishments. It is not known whether any records of early National Schools have been preserved by the Board of Education.



Professional Corporations<sup>1</sup> :—

- Legal.
- Medical.
- Artistic.
- Scientific.
- Industrial.

Trading Corporations or Companies<sup>2</sup> :—

- Chartered Companies.<sup>3</sup>
- Banking and Insurance Companies.<sup>4</sup>
- Statutory Companies.<sup>5</sup>
- Private Companies.<sup>6</sup>

3. Private Individuals.<sup>7</sup>

Inherited Collections.

Made Collections.

<sup>1</sup> These are closely allied to the Academic Corporations, and are not easily distinguished from the professional societies. Thus the Inns of Court are quasi-academics whilst the Law Society and Medical Colleges are governing bodies with statutory powers. Herein they resemble the great mercantile companies. Descriptions of the archives will be found in the 1914 Report, in the "Histories" of individual corporations, and in printed catalogues. The most important collections are Metropolitan, but the importance of the provincial organizations is increasing.

<sup>2</sup> It has been noticed previously that some institutions, societies, and professional corporations are of a commercial nature; also that "Public Utility" companies are here separately described.

<sup>3</sup> The more ancient of these companies being, for the most part, extinct, their records may be found amongst official or private collections, though, in a few cases (*e.g.* Hudson's Bay Company), they are in the custody of surviving corporations.

<sup>4</sup> Regulated by the Companies Act (1908), (*cf.* the 1914 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 42, 168). Bankers (like solicitors) have been credited with the storage of many documents of historical interest belonging to former customers. The archives of notaries and scriveners should be of considerable social and economic interest.

<sup>5</sup> Regulated under Acts of Parliament from 1843 to 1908. For a description, *see* the 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 168.

<sup>6</sup> These are also registered under the Act of 1908 (8 Ed. VII, c. 69, S. 121 (2)).

<sup>7</sup> As distinguished from corporate bodies, institutions, or associations. The sub-division suggested here is useful in tracing the provenance of the records. It should be noted, however, that the "made" collections

## B. DISTRIBUTION OF THE MUNIMENTS OF INSTITUTIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

The ethics of the custody of unrelated records have been discussed elsewhere (Introduction). In connection with the above "Classified List" it is important to observe that, although in most cases the muniments of institutions and corporations are confined to a conventional series of official records, in some a great variety of documents is found, and, therefore, no general distinction can be made between these and the muniments of private individuals which may include documents of the same nature as those preserved by corporate bodies. In both cases the collections may contain Public or Local Records. The former will include State Papers and Departmental Records, together with various administrative and judicial proceedings. The Local Records will include records of County, Town, Parish, Ecclesiastical, and Statutory Authorities. Records of many corporations or institutions will also be found in the possession of private individuals.

On the other hand we have seen that many muniments of a private nature have found their way into official or public collections.<sup>1</sup> We have also seen that the collections of private individuals have been variously acquired, some having been handed down from one generation to

(excluding the stock of antiquarian booksellers) are relatively few in number, though some (*e.g.* J. E. Hodgkin and A. Morrison) are of importance. It may be generally assumed that these collections contain more or less isolated documents. Private collectors have often bequeathed original documents and extensive transcripts or notes to public or private institutions. At the same time, their activities, though instrumental in saving many documents, have exercised a demoralizing effect upon the official custody of local records. There is the further danger of the loss of national records by sales to foreign institutions or collectors, an increasing practice and one which has hitherto been permitted with impunity (*see* above, p. 151).

<sup>1</sup> Above, pp. 151-152.

another, whilst others have been acquired by purchase, gift, or loan, and even by the removal of official documents for convenience of reference.

The structural classification of the documents is as follows :—

1. Diplomatic Documents.<sup>1</sup>

Public Records.<sup>2</sup>

Local Records.<sup>3</sup>

Official or Family Muniments.<sup>4</sup>

2. Administrative Proceedings.<sup>5</sup>

Public Records.<sup>6</sup>

Local Records.<sup>7</sup>

Official or Family Muniments.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For the several classes of "Diplomatic Documents," see *Formula Book*, Part I.

<sup>2</sup> The official instruments found here are chiefly originals, but inrolments are also met with, causing gaps in the official archives. Official correspondence is met with to a still larger extent.

<sup>3</sup> Chiefly correspondence; also charters, cartularies, and other title-deeds of municipal and ecclesiastical corporations and trusts.

<sup>4</sup> Chiefly royal and private charters and other instruments or title-deeds, with correspondence; but almost every form of "Diplomatic Document" occurs in the great academic collections.

<sup>5</sup> For the several classes of these proceedings, see *Formula Book*, Part II. We are concerned here with minutes and orders, etc., of local institutions, accounts, surveys, and nominal lists, with various miscellaneous forms.

<sup>6</sup> Especially Departmental Records. Many Exchequer or Chancery accounts and surveys found in local collections are possibly merely duplicates or subsidiary to the official records.

<sup>7</sup> Especially accounts, establishments, and plans; but specimens of other kinds of Administrative Records are to be found in the larger collections, such as the Bodleian Library.

<sup>8</sup> The types found are to some extent in keeping with the nature of the collection, where this has been kept intact; but (as noted above) the records of many manors and of the larger business corporations are now in other collections.

3. Judicial Proceedings.<sup>1</sup>Public Records.<sup>2</sup>Local Records.<sup>3</sup>Official or Family Muniments.<sup>4</sup>4. Miscellaneous Documents.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Formula Book*, Part II, and Scargill-Bird, *Guide S.V.*

<sup>2</sup> The number of actual records of the Chancery, Exchequer, and Courts of Common Law, now preserved in various institutions or in private collections, is inconsiderable compared with those of the special jurisdictions, mostly abolished (*e.g.* the Board of Green Cloth, Council of the West, etc.). There are also many subsidiary proceedings of the King's Court.

<sup>3</sup> Some records of Quarter Sessions, Inferior Courts of Records, and other records of ordinary courts of local jurisdiction, together with a still larger number of Manor Court Rolls, are to be met with. Many others are probably in the custody of Lords-Lieutenants or of the Clerks to Justices of the Peace. As to Coroners' Records, *see* 1914 Report, Appx. (II and III).

<sup>4</sup> *See* footnotes above. As previously noted, comparatively few Court Rolls are now in the possession of lords of manors, but many others must have been in the custody of their stewards, and some of these may still exist.

<sup>5</sup> Including, generally, documents of an historical nature which cannot be classified as diplomatic, administrative, or judicial, such as treatises or essays, memoranda, memoirs and diaries, poems, plays, speeches, etc., together with indexes or precis-books and other compilations. Among these special mention should be made of scientific treatises and other MSS., illustrating the History of Science in relation to the History of Civilization (*cf.* *Transactions*, R. Hist. Soc., 4th Ser., Vol. II, pp. 132 *sq.*).

PART III  
DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH  
ARCHIVES



PART III.

A DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH  
ARCHIVES.

PREFATORY NOTE.

IT was evidently the intention of Public Record Office Act of 1838 that all the State archives<sup>1</sup> should be brought into one repository; but this was never carried out. The archives actually brought in are supposed to include all the judicial records, except those of quite recent date; but the Public Records Commission of 1910 found many early records outstanding. Similarly, some Public Departments have transmitted all records no longer in use (including many of small historical value), while others have transmitted little or nothing, retaining many documents of considerable interest. These outstanding Judicial Proceedings, State Papers, and Departmental Records were estimated by the Public Records Commission as equal in bulk to the whole contents of the Public Record Office itself. They are classified in divisions (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), below.

<sup>1</sup> For a definition of Public Records, *see* 1912 Rep., pp. 3-5. For a list of the existing repositories of records (England), *see* below, and Appx. A; *cf.* Hall, *Studies*, pp. 111-118. It should be noted, however, that the General Register Office and the Principal Probate Registry are administered under other Acts, while the Records of the War Office and of the Admiralty have been primarily dealt with under the King's Regulations (1914 Report, Appx., pp. 275-276).

It was not, apparently, the intention of the Act of 1838 to transfer to the Public Record Office any semi-public Records as in Scotland and Ireland. The semi-public Records are included in the following section, because the tendency of public opinion would now be opposed to their classification among private muniments. Such records, however, though of national importance and concern, and commonly regarded as public departments, may be legally vested, by statute or otherwise, in some governing body. At the same time there are records of a purely private and local character which, in regard of public policy or utility, have acquired a national and central character.

It should be noted that the following list, compiled before the War, does not include the records of Departments or local authorities connected with the War. One reason for the exclusion is that the nature and extent of the archives was necessarily an unknown quantity; and even now that the Final Report of the Public Records Commission has been presented, and some Schedules of War Records laid before Parliament, the devolution of most of these Departments, and the position of their records, are equally uncertain.

The titles of the collections in question can be ascertained from several printed hand-lists and returns,<sup>1</sup> from which it will be seen that they include eight new Ministries (with others in contemplation), a larger number of important Boards, Departments, and Controls, and an infinite number of Branches, Sections, Directorates, Offices, Bureaus, Royal Commissions, and Departmental Committees.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* 31st July, 1918 (114), and Cd. 7855 (1915), 8256 and 8741 (1917), the Reports of the Committee appointed to inquire into the organization, etc., of Government Offices (1918), and the Report of the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Reconstruction (1918).

<sup>2</sup> As to the position of these Commissions and Committees, *see* below, p. 171.



Apart from the distribution of the War Records, a complete list of departmental archives, since the 17th century, would include many that have now been broken up, and transferred to other repositories, and still more that have been destroyed. An attempt to trace the devolution of these archives has been made elsewhere,<sup>1</sup> and some reference to the subject will be found in another part of this work.<sup>2</sup> In this connexion it should be remembered that, since the following classified list was compiled, there has been a complete reconstruction of the Admiralty and War Office staffs, besides large changes in the establishments of other Departments.

## I. CENTRAL ARCHIVES.

### A. PUBLIC RECORDS.

#### (a) PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE (Secretary, Chancery Lane, W.C.).

Records of the Royal Courts of Justice, Chancery, Exchequer and Wardrobe ; State Papers, Departmental Records, Records Deposited and Transcripts—11th-20th C. ; *see* above, Part I, and Parliamentary Papers, Reports of Record Committees, 1719-1842 ; Reports and Publications of Record Commissioners, 1799-1919 ; Deputy Keepers' Reports, 1840-1917 ; Scargill-Bird, "Guide" ; Hall, "Studies" ; Andrews, "Guide" ; Paullin and Paxson, "Guide" ; P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

#### (b) COURTS OF JUSTICE, REGISTRIES AND PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.<sup>3</sup>

**Royal Courts of Justice** (The Senior Master, Carey Street, W.C.).

Some early records not transmitted to the Master of the Rolls. *See* 1912 Rep. (*passim*) ; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; 1800 Rep., pp. 84 *sq.* ; 1837 Rep., pp. 111 *sq.* ; Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.* ; P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> H. Hall, *Studies*, pp. 43 *sq.*

<sup>2</sup> Pp. 38 *sq.* For a list of the chief Branches or Sub-departments existing in 1912, *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 5-39, and Appx. (II), pp. 87-92.

<sup>3</sup> For further information *see* Appendix A. Offices giving facilities to students are indicated by an asterisk.

\* **Principal Probate Registry** (The Senior Registrar, Somerset House).

Probate and Divorce Court Records from 1858; Testamentary and some Non-Testamentary Records (various Dioceses), from 15th century; 1912 Rep., Appx. (III); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); 1800 Rep., pp. 304-324; 1837 Rep., pp. 257-281; Marshall, *op. cit.*, p. 33.

**Chancery Crown Office** (Clerk of the Crown, Westminster Palace).

Records subsidiary to the issue of the Great Seal<sup>1</sup>; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); 1800 Rep., p. 96; 1837 Rep., p. 115.

\* **Central Criminal Court** (Deputy Clerk of the Peace, Old Bailey, E.C.).

Judicial Records from 1834; Quarter Sessions and Coroners' Records (City of London) from 1750; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); 1800 Rep., p. 244.

**Ecclesiastical Courts**<sup>2</sup> (Province of Canterbury).

\* **Court of Arches** (1 Sanctuary, Westminster).

1800 Rep., p. 306; 1837 Rep., p. 263; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

\* **Vicar-General's Office (Court of Peculiars)** (23 Knight Rider Street, E.C.).

1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

\* **Court of Faculties** (3 Creed Lane, Doctor's Commons, E.C.).

1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

(c) REGISTRIES.<sup>3</sup>

\* **Land Registry Office** (Registrar-General, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.).

Registers of Deeds relating to land in Middlesex from 1709. 1800 Rep., p. 326; 1837 Rep., p. 281; 1914 Rep., p. 11; Report of R.C. on Land Transfer Acts (1909-10); Second Report of R.C. on Legal Departments (1874), p. 92.

<sup>1</sup> The earlier records have been lately transmitted to the P.R.O.

<sup>2</sup> The later records are preserved in the respective registries mentioned below; the earlier records are all preserved in Morton's Tower, Lambeth Palace. No mention need be made here of the Benefices Act Court (1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 168). See also above, pp. 134-144.

<sup>3</sup> For the statutory registries kept by various professional corporations and local authorities, and certain official registries of the Supreme Court of Judicature and some Government Departments, see 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*, pp. 103, 168, and the Law List (*passim*). For the Principal Probate Registry, see above, p. 95.

\* **General Register of Merchant Shipping and Seamen** (Tower Hill, E.).

Copies or Abstracts of Ships' Books, etc., from 1835 ; Original Records deposited from 1747 ; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; P.R.O., "Schedules," pp. 589, 592 ; Annual Returns of Registrar-General.

**Registry of Joint Stock Companies** (Somerset House, W.C.).

Articles of Association, etc., of Companies under Companies' Acts (1844-1908). 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; Annual Reports of Controllers.

\* **General Register Office** (Somerset House, W.C.). *Established under the Registration Acts (1837→).*

Registers (Transcripts) and Indexes of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, from 1837 ; Original Registers and other records of Births ; Deaths, Burials, and Marriages, deposited from 17th century ; Census Records from 1801 ; Departmental Records, from 1837. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; Return of the Registrar-General (1912) ; P.R.O., "Schedules," 1918.

**Patent Office** (Chief Clerk, Southampton Buildings, W.C.).

Specifications of Inventions, etc. *See* above, p. 13, and Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 77 ; 1912 Rep., Appx. (III) ; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

**Friendly Societies Registry** (Registrar, Millbank, S.W.).

Rules and other documents relating to Societies. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

(d) STATE DEPARTMENTS.<sup>1</sup>

**Department of the Master of the Horse** (Crown Equerry, Buckingham Mews, S.W.).

Records relating to the Royal Mews from 1702. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

**Lord Great Chamberlain's Office** (Clerk, Westminster Palace).

Records and Transcripts relating to Coronation Claims, State Trials, and State Ceremonies, from 1560. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II) ; J. H. Round in "Monthly Review" (June, 1902).

**Royal Almonry** (King's Almoner, Dean's Yard, Westminster).

Vouchers and nominal lists from 1724. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II) ; "Guardian," April 5, 1893.

<sup>1</sup> The early records of the Lord Chamberlain's and the Lord Steward's Departments have recently been transferred to the P.R.O., also those of the Privy Purse Office. For these and other departments of the Royal Household, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 7, 69, 104, 171 ; Appx. (III), p. 96.

**Duchy of Lancaster Office** (Clerk of the Council, Lancaster Place, W.C.).

Some early records not transferred to the P.R.O. in 1873. 1912, 1914, and 1919 Reps. (*passim*); *cf.* D.K. 35 Rep., p. iv *sq.* and Appx. (I).

**Duchy of Cornwall Office** (Secretary, Buckingham Gate, S.W.).

Estate Records and State Papers from 13th century. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II); *cf.* G. R. Lewis, "The Stannaries" (1908).

\* **Parliament Office**<sup>1</sup> (Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords).

Acts and proceedings of Parliament and Judicial Proceedings, from 1497. 1800 Rep., p. 66; 1837 Rep., p. 75; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II); 1919 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); Andrews and Davenport, "Guide to Minor London Archives" (1908), p. 189; Calendar of papers of the House of Lords (H.M.C. 1st-14th Reps. and H.L., 1900, etc.).

\* **Privy Council Office**<sup>2</sup> (Clerk of the Council, Whitehall, S.W.).

Registers from 1800; Books and Papers from 1677<sup>3</sup>; Transcripts of Records and Printed Appeal Cases from 18th century. Acts of the Privy Council (Record Commission and P.R.O. Series), 1386-1604; Acts of the Privy Council (Colonial Series), 1613-1783; 1800 Rep., p. 74; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 170; P.R.O., "Schedules," 1919.

**Home Office**<sup>4</sup> (Under-Secretary of State, Whitehall, S.W.).

The records of earlier date than 1837 have been transferred to the P.R.O., with a few exceptions, exclusive of external departments. 1912 Rep., Appx. (III); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

**Foreign Office**<sup>4</sup> (Under-Secretary of State, Downing Street, S.W.).

The records of earlier date than 1837 have been transferred to the P.R.O., with certain exceptions. 1912 Rep., Appx. (III); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

<sup>1</sup> For the records of the House of Commons, *see* 1800 Rep., p. 66; 1837 Rep., p. 77; 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*, p. 48, and Appx. (III), p. 73. Practically all the early records were burnt in 1833.

<sup>2</sup> Including the Registry of the Judicial Committee.

<sup>3</sup> These Papers were formerly deposited in the Public Record Office, but were not arranged or produced to the public there (1912 Rep., Appx. (III), pp. 46-47; 1914 Rep., p. 16). They are being re-transferred.

<sup>4</sup> Exclusive of branch records for which *see* 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Colonial Office** (Under-Secretary of State, Downing Street, S.W.).

The records of earlier date than 1837 have been transferred to the P.R.O., with certain exceptions.<sup>1</sup> 1912 Rep., Appx. (III); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

**India Office** (Under-Secretary of State, Downing Street, S.W.).

Records of East India Coy. (1600-1858); Board of Control (1784-1858), and Secretary of State from 1858 (MS. and printed Lists). See 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III).

\* **War Office**<sup>2</sup> (Secretary, Whitehall, S.W.).

The records of earlier date than 1850 have been transferred to the P.R.O. with certain exceptions. 1912 Rep., Appx. (III); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

\* **Admiralty**<sup>2</sup> (Secretary, Whitehall, S.W.).

The records of earlier date than 1837 have been transferred to the P.R.O., with some important exceptions. 1912 Rep. and Appx. (*passim*); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (*passim*); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

**Exchequer and Audit Department** (Controller and Auditor-General, Victoria Embankment, E.C.).

The records of earlier date than 1837 have been recently transferred to the P.R.O. or otherwise disposed of. 1912 Rep. (*passim*); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*); cf. Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 376.

**Treasury** (Secretary, Whitehall, S.W.).

The departmental records, with a few exceptions, have been transferred to the P.R.O.<sup>3</sup> For the County Court and Wreck Registers see 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III), and P.R.O., *Schedules* (*passim*) For the Legal Departments (Treasury Solicitor, King's Proctor, Director of Public Prosecutions, Parliamentary Counsel, and Law Officers), see 1912 Rep. and Appx.; 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Paymaster-General's Office** (Whitehall, S.W.).

The departmental records previous to 1882 have been transferred to the P.R.O.<sup>4</sup> 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*, pp. 21, 22, 190, and D.K. Repts. (*passim*); cf. P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* original maps formerly in the S.P.O. and P.R.O. The Crown Agents' Department may be regarded as a branch office.

<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of branch records for which see 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> See above (Part I), p. 49, and 1912 Rep. (*passim*).

<sup>4</sup> See above (Part I), pp. 49, 63.

- \* **National Debt Office** (Controller-General, Old Jewry, E.C.).  
Declarations and Certificates relating to Life Annuities and Tontines ;  
Slave Compensation Records ; modern Financial Records. 1912  
Rep., Appx. (II) ; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II) ; *cf.* P.R.O., "Sche-  
dules," p. 602 ; Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 382, and D.K. Reps.  
(*passim*).
- \* **Royal Mint** (Deputy Master, Tower Hill, E.C.).  
Registers, Transcripts, Warrants, and Miscellaneous Records from the  
16th century. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II) ; P.R.O., "Schedules,"  
p. 511 ; *cf.* D.K. Reps. (*passim*), and Rep. of Royal Commission  
(1849).
- \* **Office of H.M. Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue** (Chief  
Clerk, Whitehall, S.W.).  
Records of Crown Property from 1660.<sup>1</sup> 1912 Rep. (*passim*) ; 1914  
Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; P.R.O., "Schedules," pp. 634, 635 ;  
Thomas, "History of Public Departments" ; Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*
- H.M. Office of Works**,<sup>2</sup> etc. (Secretary, Westminster, S.W.).  
Title Deeds and Plans. The early Accounts and Correspondence  
have been transferred to the P.R.O. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II,  
III) ; *cf.* P.R.O., "Schedules," pp. 604, 639 ; Thomas, *op. cit.* ;  
Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*
- \* **H.M. Stationery Office** (The Controller, Westminster, S.W.).  
Correspondence, Tenders, Accounts, and Statistics relating to official  
publications from 1789. 1912 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 77, *n.* ; 1914  
Rep. and Appx. (II, III) ; P.R.O., "Schedules," pp. 579.
- \* **Board of Inland Revenue** (Secretary, Somerset House, W.C.).  
Records relating to Taxes, Stamp Duty, Land Values, Estate Duties,  
including records of Special Commissioners of Income Tax (for  
Great Britain). 1912 Rep. (*passim*) ; 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II,  
III) ; P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*), and Reports of the Board.

<sup>1</sup> The bulk of the records has been transferred to the Land Revenue Department of the Public Record Office. Those retained are chiefly precedents and plans.

<sup>2</sup> *cf.* Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 391. For the evolution of this department, see F. S. Thomas, "History of Public Offices" (1846). Royal Palaces are also administered by the Lord Chamberlain's Department and the War Office (Tower of London).

\* **Board of Customs and Excise** (Secretary, Custom House, E.C.).

Some valuable records (for the U.K.) have not been transferred to the P.R.O.<sup>1</sup> There are also some Excise Records.<sup>2</sup> 1912 Rep. (*passim*); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*); Andrews, *Guide*, II, pp. 111 *sq.*

**Board of Trade**<sup>3</sup> (Secretary, Whitehall Gardens).

Departmental records from 1839. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

\* **Local Government Board** (Secretary, Whitehall).

Departmental records from 1834.<sup>4</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 110, Appx. (III), p. 29; P.R.O., "Schedules" (1917).

**Board of Education** (Secretary, Whitehall).

Departmental records from 1847.<sup>5</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules," p. 466.

\* **Board of Agriculture and Fisheries** (Secretary, Whitehall Place and St. James's Square).

Departmental records from 1836.<sup>6</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

\* **Charity Commission** (Secretary, St. James's Square).

Departmental records from 1853 and deeds, etc., relating to charities. 1912 Rep., Appx. (II); 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules," p. 415.

<sup>1</sup> For the Departmental Customs Records in the P.R.O., see Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 379. This series is distinct from the mediæval records described by N. S. B. Gras in "Early English Customs System" (1918).

<sup>2</sup> The Excise Department was transferred from the Inland Revenue in 1909, but some early records have remained at Somerset House. For the records at the Out-ports and Excise Collections, see 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*, pp. 237 *sq.*

<sup>3</sup> For the distribution of the records, see 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 129 and 254. Some branch repositories have been mentioned elsewhere (*see* above, Registries). The records previous to 1839 have been transferred to the State Paper Office or to the Public Record Office (Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, p. 379, and *Lists and Indexes*, No. xxxvi).

<sup>4</sup> Including the records of the Poor Law Commission (1834-48) and Poor Law Board (1848-71). None have yet been transferred to the Public Record Office.

<sup>5</sup> Including the records of the Victoria and Albert and Science Museums and the Geological Survey. None have been transferred.

<sup>6</sup> Including the records of the Ordnance Survey and Kew Gardens. None have been transferred.

**Civil Service Commission** (Secretary, Burlington Gardens, W.).

Departmental records from 1855.<sup>1</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules," p. 418; Annual Reports.

\* **Ecclesiastical Commission** (Secretary, Millbank, S.W. 1).

Deeds, Court Rolls, Bailiffs' Accounts, and other Muniments relating to Ecclesiastical Estates; departmental records.<sup>2</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), pp. 44-46; P.R.O., "Schedules," p. 465; Annual Reports.

\* **Metropolitan Police** (Chief Commissioner, New Scotland Yard, S.W.).

Criminal dossiers and intelligence from 1829.<sup>3</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II); P.R.O., "Schedules" (*passim*).

**Prison Commission** (Secretary, Home Office).

Records from 1878.<sup>4</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); P.R.O., "Schedules," pp. 559, 566.

\* **Board of Control** (Secretary, 66 Victoria Street, S.W.).

Records of Lunacy Commissioners from 1774.<sup>5</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II); Annual Reports.

\* **Queen Anne's Bounty Office** (Secretary, 3 Dean's Yard, Westminster).

Records from 1702.<sup>6</sup> 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II, III); *cf.* P.R.O., "Schedules," p. 160.

**National Health Insurance Commission** (now Ministry of Health, Secretary, S.W. 1).

Departmental records from 1911. 1914 Rep. and Appx. (II).

**Public Trustee Office** (The Public Trustee, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.).

Departmental records since 1907, and private documents deposited. 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 85. Annual Reports.

<sup>1</sup> They include examination papers. None have been transferred.

<sup>2</sup> Many of the older records have been transferred; others have been left in the Cathedral churches or Diocesan Registries.

<sup>3</sup> None have been transferred; they are closely related with the records of the Home Office and Police Courts (Bow Street), and now with those under the D.O.R.A.

<sup>4</sup> Some have been transferred; but most of the earlier records have been destroyed, probably in 1878.

<sup>5</sup> Formerly Lunacy Commissioners. No records have been transmitted; they have sometimes been confused with records of the Masters in Lunacy.

<sup>6</sup> The bulk of the records of the Office of First Fruits and Tenths (Exchequer) was transferred in 1842.



- \* **Public Works Loan Board** (Secretary, Old Jewry, E.C.).  
Records of economic interest (*e.g.* for West Indies) from 1817. 1914 Rep., p. 34.
- Government Chemist** (Clement's Inn Passage, W.C. 2).  
Departmental records (recent). 1914 Report, Appx. (II), p. 89.
- \* **Meteorological Office** (Director, Exhibition Road, S.W.).  
Records of observations from 1860. 1914 Rep., p. 36, and Appx. (II), pp. 86, 196. Printed Reports.
- Development Commission** (Secretary, 6A Dean's Yard, Westminster).  
Departmental records (modern). 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 89. Annual Reports.
- Road Board** (Secretary, 35 Cromwell Road, S.W.).  
Departmental records from 1909. 1914 Rep., p. 38; P.R.O., "Schedules" (1918). Annual Reports.
- \* **Caledonian Canal Commission**<sup>1</sup> (Secretary).  
Proceedings, Accounts, and Plans from 1800 *c.* 1914 Rep., p. 34, and Appx. (II).
- Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851**<sup>1</sup> (Secretary, Victoria Street, S.W.).  
Proceedings, Title Deeds, etc. 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 84. Annual and Periodical Reports.
- \* **Railway and Canal Commission**<sup>1</sup> (Secretary, Royal Courts of Justice).  
Departmental records (modern). 1914 Rep., Appx. (II).

(*e*) TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES.

In the preceding division will be found a few temporary Commissions which have acquired a permanent status: in most cases, however, these bodies cease to exist within a few years, and the duration of Departmental Committees is still briefer. Generally Royal Commissions are under the care of some department of State which takes charge of the archives when the Commission has lapsed. In many cases, however, the archives are left to be disposed of at the discretion of the Secretary. Eventually the archives of these Commis-

<sup>1</sup> These are temporary Commissions which have never lapsed; *see* Prefatory Note, below (*e*).

sions or Committees should be transferred to the Public Record Office with the records of the Department to which they were attached, but relatively few collections have been thus disposed of.

Returns of Royal Commissions, etc., 1831, etc. (H.C. 346), (1838); Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*, pp. 392-399; D.K. 20th and 24th Reps.; 1914 Rep., p. 35, and Appx. (II), pp. 267, 283; 1919 Rep., p. 46; Report of Departmental Committee on Royal Commissions (1908).

## B. SEMI-PUBLIC RECORDS.<sup>1</sup>

### (a) NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CENTRAL AUTHORITIES.

#### \* **Trinity House** (Secretary, Tower Hill, E.C.).

Records from 1610.<sup>2</sup> 1914 Rep., p. 39; H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 235; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 277.

#### \* **Royal Hospital** (Secretary, Chelsea).<sup>3</sup>

Records from 1691. 1914 Rep., p. 21, and Appx. (II), pp. 181, 221.

#### **Bank of England**<sup>4</sup> (Secretary, Threadneedle Street).

Records from the end of the 17th century. 1914 Rep., p. 35, and Appx. (II), p. 85.

#### \* **British Museum** (Principal Librarian, Bloomsbury).

Departmental archives from 1753; historical documents and monuments (England) from the beginning of the Christian Era. 1912 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 25; 1914 Rep., p. 36; Annual Reports and printed and MS. "Guides and Catalogues"; Edwards, "Founders"; publications of the Palæographical Society (*passim*).

#### **Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation (1904)** (Secretary, 17 Waterloo Place, S.W.).

Records from 1854. 1914 Rep., p. 38.

<sup>1</sup> As to the significance of this title, *see* Report of Local Records Committee, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Most of the early records have been destroyed by fire.

<sup>3</sup> The records of the governing body are referred to here; the records relating to military pensions are under the control of the War Office (now Ministry of Pensions).

<sup>4</sup> Numerous records were preserved here in connection with Exchequer and Treasury Accounts, some of which have been transferred to the National Debt Office, Public Record Office, and Exchequer and Audit Department.

- National Portrait Gallery**<sup>1</sup> (Secretary, Trafalgar Square).  
1914 Rep., p. 38; Annual Reports.
- \* **Royal Institution** (Secretary, Albemarle Street).  
H.M.C. American MSS. (1904-9); Andrews, *Guide*, II, p. 261.
- \* **Royal Colonial Institute** (Secretary, Northumberland Avenue).  
Proceedings from 1868. See "Year Book" (*passim*).
- \* **Royal United Service Institution** (Secretary, Whitehall).  
Proceedings from 1831. See "Journal" (*passim*).
- \* **Lloyds Corporation Exchange and Registry** (Secretary, Royal Exchange, E.C.).  
Lists of Ships (classified); records of movements of Ships; careers of Captains; policies and subsidiary documents. "Annals of Lloyds' Register" (1884).

(b) CENTRAL PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

Among the former are the statutory governing bodies of the learned professions, including some which possess valuable collections of historical manuscripts, notably the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the Society of Apothecaries, the Law Society, and the Inns of Court.<sup>2</sup> Among the latter are the central Chambers or Associations of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Protection of Trade, etc.

The various professional Institutes also occupy a more or less central position and some have interesting records, *e.g.* the Bankers Institute,<sup>3</sup> the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Institute of Civil Engineers. No mention has been made here of the central muniments of Railway and Canal Companies or of Assurance Societies (all of which should possess muniments of great

<sup>1</sup> The department has also valuable documents for the authentication of certain portraits. The collections of the National Gallery and National Gallery of British Art, and the Wallace Collection, are not, of course, of equal historical interest.

<sup>2</sup> For some of the above, see 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> The Museum (with exhibits) is in St. Clement's Lane; the records of the older banking houses should be of individual interest and value.

interest), because their national importance has not yet been recognized.<sup>1</sup>

(c) LEARNED, RELIGIOUS, AND CHARITABLE SOCIETIES.

These include the Academies and Royal Societies devoted to the study of History or related subjects. The Society of Antiquaries, and the Historical, Geographical, Asiatic, Agricultural,<sup>2</sup> Statistical, and Numismatic Societies have important collections.<sup>3</sup> Among the other groups the valuable records of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, are well known,<sup>4</sup> and, among others, the archives of the Anti-slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, the British Red Cross Society, the Charity Organization Society, the Royal Humane Society, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Young Men's Christian Association, have at least a potential value.

## 2. LOCAL ARCHIVES.<sup>5</sup>

### BEDFORDSHIRE.

Apart from the County Records and those of the two ancient boroughs of Bedford and Dunstable, there are few Local Records of importance. For ecclesiastical and other purposes it is grouped with neighbouring counties. The County Records have been carefully arranged and

<sup>1</sup> Fortunately some early specimens will probably be found in the collection of Chancery Exhibits, not yet arranged.

<sup>2</sup> 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 301.

<sup>3</sup> The Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society has a keen interest in, and extensive knowledge of, many classes of Local Records (1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 33).

<sup>4</sup> Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, pp. 330 *sq.*

<sup>5</sup> For the plan of arrangement and sources of information referred to *see* Preface. The page references are to the Appendices of the Reports.

calendared, and schedules of the Bedford Corporation Records have been printed. The publications of the Bedfordshire "Historical Record Society" are very valuable, *see* also Pomfret and Warburton's MS. collections for Bedfordshire in the British Museum.

**Public Records.**—*See* Northamptonshire.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Turnpike Trust Records, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 83, and D. Ballen, "Bibliography of Road-making," etc., p. 68 (1914). For Bedford Level, *see* Northamptonshire.

**County Records.**—1800 Rep., p. 261 ; 1902 Rep., pp. 14, 15 ; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.* ; "Bedfordshire County Records," 3 vols.

**Town Records.**

*Bedford* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2101 ; 1902 Rep., 48 ; Bedford Corporation Records (1883) ; Borough of Bedford, A Schedule of the Ancient Charters and Muniments, 1895.

*Dunstable.*—1902 Rep., p. 56, and V.C.H. Bedfordshire, Vol. III, p. 349.

*Luton* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 64, and V.C.H. Bedfordshire, Vol. II, p. 348.

**Parish Records.**—Of no special interest. A few early registers, one printed (Hawnes). There are MSS. relating to Bedford parishes at Woburn Abbey (H.M.C. 2nd Rep., Appx., p. 2).

**Church Records.**—For Diocesan Records, *see* Lincoln, Ely, St. Albans, and Windsor. The Archdeaconry Records are at Northampton. Nonconformity has been well represented in the County since the 17th century (*see* V.C.H. i, 337-346).

**Public Institutions.**—The Bedford Literary and Scientific Institute and General Library (1830). For a full account of the famous Schools at Bedford, *see* V.C.H. ii, 149-185.

**Private Collections.**—*See* 18th Rep., H.M.C., Appx., p. 349. The valuable collection at Woburn Abbey includes important State Papers of the 18th century. (2nd Rep., Appx., p. 1.)

## BERKSHIRE.

Berkshire is not an important administrative unit. For the history of the County Gaol (since 1687), *see* S. and B. Webb, *Parish and County*, p. 445, *n.* There are military depots at Windsor and Reading. The County Records have suffered from fire, but the muniments of

the older burghs are of considerable antiquity. This county forms an archdeaconry of the diocese of Oxford, and there is no local Probate Registry.

Wellington College is of modern foundation; but valuable records are preserved at Sandhurst. There are old foundations at Reading, Wantage, and Wallingford.

Most of the charities are now administered by municipal trustees. The Private Collections nominally include the State Papers in the King's Library at Windsor Castle.

**County Records.**—Reading (Shire Hall). 1800 Rep., p. 261; 1902 Rep., pp. 14-15; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.*, 96.

**Town Records.**

*Abingdon* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 3; 1902 Rep., pp. 46, 47; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 98; and Rep., XV, 149; Challenor, "Selections," 1555-1897; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Maidenhead* (T.C.).—(MS. Cat.). 1835 Rep., V, p. 2909; 1902 Rep., pp. 64-65; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Newbury* (T.C.).—*See* 1835 Rep., I, p. 89, 91-92; W. Money's "History"; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Reading* (T.C.).—*See* H.M.C. 11th Rept., Appx. (VII), pp. 167-227; and Schedule in J. M. Guilding's "Corporation Diaries"; 1835 Rep., I, p. 111; 1902 Rep., pp. 38-39; 1919 Rep., p. 96.

*Wallingford* (T.C.).—H.M.C. 6th Rep., pp. 572-595; J. K. Hedges' "History," II, chap. vii; 1835 Rep., I, pp. 133-134; 1919 Rep., p. 27.

*Windsor* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2933; Tighe and Davis, "Annals of Windsor, I, pp. 400-403.

*Wokingham* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., V, p. 2938; 1837 Rep., p. 509; 1902 Rep., pp. 74-75; 1880 Rep., p. 123; *Wilts Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc. Mag.*, XI, pp. 50-82; F. A. Carrington, "Ancient State of Wokingham"; 1919 Rep., p. 28.

**Parish Records.**—In addition to Cox, *op. cit.*, and the Index Society, *see* J. Townsend, "History of Abingdon"; *Home Counties Magazine*, I, p. 45, and *Berks Arch. Soc. Quarterly Journal*, I, p. 155 (Warfield); *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon. Arch. Soc. Journal*, II, pp. 13-15 (Grazeley); *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journal*, N.S., II, pp. 157-183 (Newbury). For Court Rolls, *see* *Berks Arch. Soc. Quarterly Journal*, Vol. III, and *Berks, Bucks,*

*and Oxon. Arch. Journals, passim.* The Pangbourne Registers and Churchwardens' books for Abingdon have been transcribed. For Index to Marriage Registers, *see Berks, Bucks, and Oxon. Arch. Journal*, Vols. VI-X.

**Church Records.**—The archdeaconry records are in the Bodleian Library (1919 Rep., p. 95). Wills of Peculiar Courts are at Somerset House (1914 Rep., Appx., p. 202). An important Collection is in St. George's Chapel, Windsor (1902 Rep., pp. 116-117, and H.M.C. Various Coll., Appx. (VII), pp. 10-43). There is a Calendar of Wills (1508-1652) in Vol. VIII of the Index Society.

For list of Non-parochial Registers lodged with the Registrar-General, *see Berks Notes and Queries*, I, pp. 21-23, and for details of Quaker records for this county apply to the Friends' Central Office and Library, Devonshire House, 136 Bishopsgate, E.C.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—Reading Public Library, *see Catalogue*; 1902 Rep., p. 39. The Royal Library, Windsor Castle, contains a most valuable collection of State Papers, including very fine Oriental and Western illuminated MSS. (1914 Rep., II, 69; H.M.C. 16th Rep., p. 12; 17th Rep., p. 13; 18th Rep., p. 112. For Schools, *see V.C.H., Berks*, Vol. II. Almshouses, etc., are described in G. W. Wallace's "Endowed Charities of Berks".

**Private Collections.**—*See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx. (III), p. 349.*

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

This county was transferred from the Lincoln to the Oxford Diocese in 1837, and the archdeaconry records are now deposited in the Bodleian Library. Eton College has, however, retained an important collection of Wills, etc. Many Buckinghamshire MSS. are preserved by the Duke of Somerset at Maiden Bradley in Wilts, and the rentals of Wycombe Manor are in the archives of Winchester. The Cole MSS. are in the British Museum; the Hare MSS. will be found in the College of Arms, and those of Browne Willis in the Bodleian Library.

**Public Records.**—The District Probate Registry is at Oxford.

**County Records** (*Aylesbury*).—From 1678; some records have been handed over to the Local Archæological Society. MS. Index. *See 1800 Rep., p. 262; 1902 Rep., p. 14; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 sq., 94.*

**Town Records.**

*Aylesbury* (U.D.C.).—Modern municipal documents only (1919 Rep., p. 95).

*Buckingham* (T.C.).—Court Baron Rolls. 1835 Rep., p. 27; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, I, p. 340, *n.*; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Wycombe* (T.C.).—From 13th century. See 1835 Rep., p. 41; H.M.C. 5th Rep., XVII, and p. 554.

**Parish Records.**—Various records are, or were, recently preserved in parish chests at, *e.g.* Aylesbury, Bletchley, Brightwell, Chalfont, St. Peters, Winslow, and Wycombe. 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; see *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon. Arch. Journal*, Apr., 1906; *Home Counties Mag.*, I, p. 252; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, I, 48, *n.*; Lipscombe, "History of Bucks" (*passim*).

**Church Records.**—Archdeaconry of Bucks (Oxon. Diocese). All records prior to 1850 are deposited in the Bodleian Library, Oxford; see Summary Catalogue, Nos. 25,579-26,120, and 1919 Rep., pp. 94 *sq.*

**Public Institutions.**—For the archives of Eton College, see Catalogue by M. R. James (1895); also H.M.C. 9th Rep., X, Appx. (I), p. 349. The ancient Bucks Grammar Schools are described in V.C.H., *Bucks*, II, p. 209; *cf.* Lipscombe, "History," IV, p. 207. For the ancient Charities of the County, see V.C.H., *Bucks*, Vol. I; Ch. Com. Reps. XVIII, XXVI, XXVII, and Lipscombe, *op. cit.* (*passim*). Records of several institutions are still preserved locally.

For particulars of the Bedford Charities, apply to the Aylesbury Incorporated Surveyors of Highways.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx. (III), p. 349. For the Lees' Collection at Hartwell House, see W. H. Smyth, "Aedes Hartwelliana," and V.C.H., *Bucks*, II, p. 294.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The shire comprises two county divisions, the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, the latter being the area of the ancient jurisdiction of the Abbot-Bishops of Ely. There is one Lord-Lieutenant and the shrievalty also includes the County of Huntingdon, but each county division has a separate Clerk of the Peace. Nearly half of the Bedford Level lies within the shire. The famous collections of MSS. in Cambridge University and Colleges, have been extensively described. There are only two municipal boroughs. In the 1902 Report (pp. 242-243),



there is a list of depositories of records in Cambridgeshire. Among the Cole MSS. at the British Museum is an important collection relating to the Town, University, and County of Cambridge.<sup>1</sup>

**Public Records.**—The District Probate Registry for this county is at Peterborough. The records of the Peculiar Court of King's College, Cambridge, are preserved at the College.

For the Custom House at Wisbech, *see* below.

**Statutory Authorities and Trusts.**—Commissioners of Sewers.—Corporation of Bedford Level (constituted 1664), offices in St. Mary's Street, Ely. A few of the records are among the Episcopal Records at Ely. *See* Gibbons, "Ely Episcopal Records," p. 19; and above, p. 78; also 1837 Rep., p. 118; and 1914 Rep., II, p. 100. For other Commissions of Sewers, etc., *see* 1902 Rep., Appx., p. 242; 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 100, and Local Taxation Returns (1913/4), Part VI.

**County Records.**

(a) County of Cambridge (Cambridge).—1800 Rep., p. 263; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.*

(b) Isle of Ely (March and Ely).—Many of the Ancient Sessions Records are at the Bishop's Palace, Ely. 1800 Rep., p. 263; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.*; and A. Gibbons, "Ely Episcopal Records".

**Town Records.**

*Cambridge* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., IV, p. 2185; H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 99; 1919 Rep., p. 23; M. Bateson, "Cambridge Guild Records"; F. Blomefield, "Collectanea Cantabrigiensa" (1750).

*Wisbech*<sup>2</sup> (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2552; H.M.C. 9th Rep., XIV, and Appx. (I), pp. 293-299; Walker, Neil, and Cradock, "History of Wisbech and the Fens" (1849).

**Parish Records.**—Early Registers and Churchwarden's Accounts are scanty and very few have been printed. *See* proceedings and publications of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Cambridge Camden Society; *The East Anglian*; *Fenland Notes and Queries*; R. Hist. Soc., *Camden Miscellany*, Vol. XII.

**Church Records.**

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Ely).—1800 Rep., p. 311; 1902 Rep., p. 104; 1914 Rep., II, p. 142, 308; H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx., pp. 375-388; Convocation Rep., No. 498 (1916); A. Gibbons, "Ely Episcopal Records" (1891); 1919 Rep., p. 29.

<sup>1</sup> *See* G. J. Gray, "Index to Cole MSS.," 1912.

<sup>2</sup> The Corporation meets in the Council Chamber at the Corn Exchange.

- (b) *Cathedral Records* (Ely).—1902 Rep., p. 110; H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), pp. 389-396; Convocation Rep., No. 498 (1916). F. R. Chapman, "Sacrist Rolls of Ely" (1908); 1800 Rep., p. 334.
- (c) *Archdeaconry Records* (Registries at Ely and Wisbech).—H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx., Part IX, pp. 380-381; Convocation Rep., No. 498 (1916); 1919 Rep., p. 30.

#### Public Institutions.

*Cambridge.*—(a) The MS. collections of the University and Colleges of Cambridge have been reported on by the H.M.C. See Humphreys, "County Bibliography"; H.M.C. 18th Rep., Index; Publications of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society; Catalogues by Dr. M. R. James have been published. A catalogue of Trinity College muniments is in preparation.

- (b) The University Library. Catalogue (H. R. Luard), 1856.
- (c) The Fitzwilliam Museum. Description (M. R. James), 1895.
- (d) University Registry. List (H. R. Luard), 1876.

*Wisbech.*—Museum and Literary Institution. For ancient Charities and Schools in this county, see V.C.H., Cambridgeshire.

#### CHESHIRE.

Though the Palatinate Records were removed to London in 1854, the collections at Chester Castle are still of very great value. They are briefly described in 1912 Rep., Appx. (X), (Vol. I, pp. 143-148, and *passim*), and in works there cited. Among statutory authorities the Chester Union may be noticed as representing an early Poor Law Union (1762-1862). The modern boroughs of Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Stockport, and Wallasey had respectively Local Board of Health (1857); Lighting and Paving Commissioners (1857); Street Commissioners (1825), and (1845); Improvement Commissioners, followed by a Board of Health in 1852, but no other early corporate records. The Diocesan Records date from 1541, but the present diocese is considerably reduced in extent. A description of the Cathedral Records is needed. For an account of the ancient courts of the Hundred, Borough, and Forest of Macclesfield, and their records, see S. and B. Webb, *Manor and Borough*, I, pp. 45-47, and note.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry, Chester. *See* Wills at Chester,<sup>1</sup> 1545-1800 (Lanc. and Chesh. Rec. Soc., *passim*), and, for Marriage Records, *see* Marriage Licences, 1601-80 (Lanc. and Chesh. Rec. Soc., Vol. LIII, etc.), and Chetham Society, Vol. XXXIII, etc.; N.S.; Vol. III, etc.; *cf.* also 1800 Rep., p. 316; 1837 Rep., p. 277.

Some Customs Records of early date are preserved among the Chester Records. *See* 1912 Rep., p. 148; 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 238.

**County Records.**—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 264; 1837 Rep., p. 226; 1902 Rep., p. 16; 1912 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Towns Records.**—(T.C. in all cases but that of Over.)

*Altrincham.*—Very little remains in custody of the Town Trust; *cf.* 1902 Rep., p. 276; 1837 Rep., p. 428; S. and B. Webb, "Manor and Borough," I, pp. 165-169.

*Birkenhead* (modern records).—1902 Rep., p. 30.

*Chester.*—1912 Rep., p. 148; H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 355; *Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.*, N.S. X, p. 5; *Arch. Camb.*, VI, X, p. 418. For records of the City Companies, *see* *Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.*, N.S. V, p. 16; Gross., *op. cit.*, p. 191.

*Congleton.*—Gross., *op. cit.*, p. 200; 1902 Rep., p. 52.

*Macclesfield.*—1902 Rep., p. 64; S. and B. Webb, *loc. cit.*; 1835 Rep. (Hogg), p. 51; Earwaker, "East Cheshire," II, p. 458.

*Over* (T.T.).—For the Manorial Records, *see* 1919 Rep., p. 26. For the Municipal Records, *see* 1835 Rep., p. 2815; 1880 Rep., p. 89; 1902 Rep., p. 276.

*Stockport.*—1902 Rep., p. 40; Webb, *op. cit.*, I, p. 169, *n.* 6; 1835 Rep. (Hogg), p. 129.

**Parish Records.**—A few registers have been printed by the Parish Register Society. *See* Matthews, List of Printed Registers, and Cox., *op. cit.* A number of Churchwardens' Accounts are extant, and specimens (Chester) have been printed.

### Church Records.

(a) Bishopric Records. 1800 Rep., p. 316; 1837 Rep., p. 277; 1902 Rep., p. 104; *Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.*, N.S. V, p. 384.

(b) Chapter Records. 1902 Rep., p. 110.

(c) Archdeaconry Records of Chester and Macclesfield. 1902 Rep., p. 120. For records formerly in the Registry of Archdeaconry of Richmond, *see* 1800 Rep., pp. 317, 318; 1914 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 44; 1919 Rep., p. 30.

**Nonconformist Records.**—*See* "Rep. of Provincial Assembly of

<sup>1</sup> "Lancashire and Cheshire Wills" (published by Lancs. and Chesh. Record Soc.) is a selection printed *in extenso* from various private collections.

Lancs. and Cheshire on Laws and Usages of the Assembly," and Lancs. and Ches. Assembly Records (G. E. Evans). The "Cheshire Minutes," 1691-1745, will shortly appear.<sup>1</sup> For non-parochial Registers, see Rep. of Commissioners, 1836.

**Public Institutions.**—Grosvenor Museum (Chester Arch. Soc.). Collection of Deeds, cf. 1902 Rep., p. 132, and *Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.*, N.S. XVII, p. 97.

Lancs. and Ches. Antiquarian Society. See 1902 Rep., p. 132.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 349, and *Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.* (*passim*).

## CORNWALL.<sup>2</sup>

The Duchy Records are not stored within the county (see above, p. 77), and the devolution of the Stannary Courts is mentioned below. The Probate Registry at Bodmin dates only from 1877, and wills previous to that date are either at Exeter or among the archidiaconal Records (Cornwall) at Bodmin (*Calendar*, by E. A. Fry (B.R.S.)). A great many of the boroughs have been disfranchised, and the information available about any of them is, on the whole, meagre. The Diocese of Truro dates only from 1877, and the Diocesan Records are still at Exeter. The Archdeaconry of Bodmin is also of recent date. The records of the old archdeaconry of Cornwall were transferred in 1773 to Bodmin.<sup>3</sup>

The *Journals* of the Royal Institute of Cornwall give much information about local records.<sup>4</sup> A useful guide to the various county and parochial histories published up to 1877 is to be found in the *British Arch. Assoc. Journal*, 33.

<sup>1</sup> Information communicated by the Rev. Alexander Gordon.

<sup>2</sup> The Scilly Isles are within the administrative area of the county, but under the Local Government Act of 1888 they form a separate administrative unit.

<sup>3</sup> See *Truro Diocesan Calendar* for 1882.

<sup>4</sup> See especially *Journal*, XI (Presidential Address), for records of Lighthouses of the county in P.R.O., *ibid.*, VI, p. 319.

**Public Records.**—Customs Records : for those at Falmouth, Padstow, Penzance, and Truro (*see* 1914 Rep., pp. 243-244).

**Statutory Authorities.**—Stannary Records : for description, *see* 1800 Rep., p. 259, and G. R. Lewis, *op. cit.* Those now surviving are deposited at Truro (*see* 1914 Rep., p. 69). For Turnpike Trusts, *see* S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.* (*passim*), and 1919 Rep., p. 84.

**County Records**<sup>1</sup> (from 18th century).—1800 Rep., p. 265 ; 1837 Rep., p. 227 ; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.*

**Town Records.**<sup>2</sup>

*Bodmin* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 443 ; 1837 Rep., p. 434 ; R.I.C., V, p. 346.

*Bossiney* (R.D.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 453 ; 1880 Rep., p. 17.

*Callington* (U.D.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 439.

*Camelford* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 471 ; 1880 Rep., p. 22 ; R.I.C., I, Pt. IV, p. 83 ; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Falmouth* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 501 ; 1837 Rep., p. 447 ; 1902 Rep., p. 56.

*Fowey* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 505.

*Grampond* (P.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 507 ; 1837 Rep., p. 454 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24.

*Helston* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 511.

*Launceston* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 517 ; 1902 Rep., p. 62 ; H.M.C., 6th Rep., p. 524 ; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Liskeard* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 525 ; 1837 Rep., p. 463 ; 1902 Rep., p. 76.

*Looe, East* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 533 ; 1837 Rep., p. 467 ; 1880 Rep., p. 34.

*Looe, West* (U.D.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 539 ; 1837 Rep., p. 467 ; 1880 Rep., p. 119 ; *Western Antiquary*, Vol. III (*passim*).

*Lostwithiel* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 545 ; 1902 Rep., p. 62 ; H.M.C., Var. Coll., I, p. 327, and 16th Rep., p. 101.

*Marazion* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 551 ; 1837 Rep., p. 470 ; 1880 Rep., p. 76 ; *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 38, p. 354.

*Penryn* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 563 ; 1837 Rep., p. 473 ; 1902 Rep., p. 66.

*Penzance* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 571, *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 38, p. 354.

*Saltash* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 605 ; 1880 Rep., p. 103 ; 1902 Rep., p. 68 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26.

<sup>1</sup> *See* above, p. 182.

<sup>2</sup> For short general description of Cornish Boroughs, *see* *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 33, p. 179.

*St. Germans* (U.D.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 478.

*St. Mawes*.—Gross, "Municipal History," p. 62.

*St. Ives* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 619, *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 38, p. 354; *Western Antiquary*, Vol. 5, p. 33.

*Tregony* (P.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 649; 1837 Rep., p. 502; 1919 Rep., p. 27; *Western Antiquary*, Vol. 6, p. 25.

*Truro* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 655; 1902 Rep., p. 72.

**Parish Records.**—There are few early registers. The Cornwall Parish Register Society has so far published only Marriage Registers, but much information about individual parishes is to be found in the *Journals* of the R.I.C., the *Western Antiquary* and *Notes and Gleanings for Devon and Cornwall* (*passim*). For the St. Columb "Green Book," see *R.I.C. Journal*, 19, supplement.

**Church Records.**<sup>1</sup>—Archdeaconry of Cornwall (Bodmin), for list and description, see *Truro Diocesan Kalendar*, 1882. For Index to Parish Register Transcripts, see *R.I.C. Journal*, No. 19, p. 90. The list in 1902 Rep., p. 128, appears to be parochial.

For information about Nonconformist Records, see authorities given under Devon (p. 190), also *Quakeriana* for June, 1894.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—For Public Libraries, see *Library Chronicle*, ed. E. C. Thomas, Vol. III, pp. 105 and 169. For contents (MS. and printed) of Library of R.I.C., see *Journals* of that Society (*passim*). For histories of Charities and Schools, see *R.I.C. Journal*, 10, p. 418. For hospitals, see *ibid.*, 8, p. 61; and *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 11, p. 97.

**Private Collections.**—In addition to those described by the H.M.C. (see 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350), various collections and individual records in private hands are given in *R.I.C. Journals*<sup>2</sup> (*passim*); and *Notes and Gleanings for Devon and Cornwall* (*passim*); see also A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit.*

## CUMBERLAND.

The notable archives of Cumberland are the collections of the Bishop and Cathedral Chapter of Carlisle, and the muniments of Carlisle city. There are no important County Records, and none of boroughs, with the exception of Carlisle. A number of Parish Registers have been printed in the transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological

<sup>1</sup> For the Bishopric and Chapter Records, see above, p. 182, and 1902 Rep., p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> See especially, *Journal*, VI, p. 337.

Society and elsewhere. The transcripts in the Diocesan Registry are complete from 1610. The Bishopric includes, since 1856, the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland and Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands, but outlying records indicate the earlier ecclesiastical history of the district. The private collections hitherto described are unimportant.

**Public Records.**

(a) District Probate Registry (Carlisle).—For wills of the Consistory Court from 1610, see *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, 1893.

(b) Custom House Records (Maryport, Whitehaven, etc.).—1914 Rep., p. 245.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Harbour Commissioners, Harbour and Dock Boards, etc., at Maryport, Whitehaven, and Workington, see 1914 Rep., p. 245. For records of Turnpike Trusts, in most cases outstanding, see 1902 Rep., p. 144; S. and B. Webb, "King's Highway," and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84.

**County Records** (Carlisle).—Session Records from 1668 (MS. Index). See 1800 Rep., p. 265; 1837 Rep., p. 27; 1902 Rep., p. 16; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 sq., 108.

**Town Records.**

*Carlisle* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1465; 1837 Rep., p. 440; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), p. 197; 1919 Rep., p. 108; "Municipal Records of Carlisle," Ferguson and Nansen (*Cumb. and Westm. Antiq. etc., Soc. Trans.*, 1887), *ibid.* (*passim*); S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Cockermouth* (R.D.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 443; H.M.C. 6th Rep. (Egremont), p. 287; *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, 1874, p. 282; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Egremont.*—See *Cockermouth*.

**Parish Records.**—For Parish Records of Carlisle borough and other Cumberland parishes, see *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, Cat. Index (Vols. I-XVI, 1901), and *ibid.*, N.S., 1904; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), p. 178. For Nonconformist registers, see 1838 Rep., pp. 89 and 119.

**Church Records.**

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Carlisle).—Bishops' Registers from 1294. See 1800 Rep., p. 320; 1919 Rep., p. 29; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), p. 177; *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, 1893.

(b) *Cathedral Records*<sup>1</sup> (Carlisle).—See 1837 Rep., p. 289; 1902 Rep., pp. 110 and 120; 1919 Rep., p. 29; H.M.C. 2nd Rep., Appx., p. 123; *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.* (*passim*).

(c) *Archdeaconry Records*.—See 1902 Rep., p. 120.

**Public Institutions.**—Tullie House (Carlisle Free Library) has a collection of local deeds and specimens of Corporation records calendared in *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, N.S., 1914, pp. 63-82. See also "Northern Counties Magazine," 1901, p. 140, and 1919 Rep., p. 108. The register of Carlisle Grammar School is in the custody of the Dean and Chapter. For other ancient schools and charities, see *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.*, N.S., 1902, *ibid.* (*passim*), and R. S. Ferguson, "History of Cumberland" (1890).

**Private Collections.**—See *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq., etc., Soc. Trans.* (*passim*), and H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350.

## DERBYSHIRE.

Derbyshire is not rich in records. The best series is that of the County Records. There are no important Ecclesiastical Records. There are three borough towns: Derby, Chesterfield, and Ilkeston, but the Derby Records were all burnt in 1841 and Ilkeston is a new incorporation. Buxton, Bakewell, and other market towns were formerly under local boards and are now administered by Urban District Councils.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry (Derby): for the Archdeaconry of Derby (Diocese of Lichfield), see Marshall, *op. cit.*

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For the important and interesting records of Barmote Courts, see above, Part II, p. 103, and 1919 Rep., pp. 66 *sq.*

**County Records.**—(Derby). Printed and MS. Calendar; *cf.* J. C. Cox, "Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals" (1890); 1902 Rep., p. 17; 1837 Rep., p. 228; 1919 Rep., pp. 2 *sq.*

**Town Records.**—*Chesterfield*.—Printed Calendar. See 1835 Rep., p. 1787; 1837 Rep., p. 441; 1902 Rep., pp. 50-51; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

**Parish Records.**—The Derbyshire Parish Records do not seem to be of special interest. The greater part of the Parish Registers date from the

<sup>1</sup> The MSS. collections date from the 14th century. There is a printed hand-list (1900).



17th century.<sup>1</sup> For extracts from Parish Papers, *see* the *Transactions of the Derbyshire Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc.*

**Church Records.**—The Archdeaconry of Derby had local connections with Southwell. It is officially associated with the diocese of Lichfield; now also with the new diocese of Sheffield.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—There are various Grammar Schools dating from the 16th and 17th centuries and numerous almshouses, etc. The Ashbourne Grammar School (1585) is governed by a Trust. That at Buxton (1674) is also under a body of Governors. There are some interesting chantry deeds at Norton Vicarage connected with Beauchief Abbey.

**Private Collections.**—*See* 18th Rep., *loc. cit.* For other private collections, *see* T. H. Jeayes, "Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire Charters" (1906).

## DEVONSHIRE.

A good deal of information is supplied by the publications of the Devonshire Association<sup>2</sup> as to records of boroughs, of Nonconformity, schools, charities and hospitals, and the dispersal of monastic cartularies.<sup>3</sup> Similar information is also to be found in the *Western Antiquary* and *Notes and Gleanings for Devon and Cornwall*, and the *Devon and Cornwall Record Society*.

**Public Records** (District Probate Registry, Exeter).—*See* Marshall, *op. cit.*, pp. 21-23; British Record Society; "Calendar of Wills, etc., relating to Devon and Cornwall," 1559-1779 (ed. E. A. Fry, 1908 and 1914). For ancient "Incorporations of the Poor" at Exeter and other records, *see* 1919 Report, Appx. (II), pp. 87 *sq.*

Admiralty: for outstanding records preserved at Plymouth and Devonport, *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 187, 259.

War Office: for the records of the Military Commands at Devonport, *see* *ibid.*, p. 219; for those of regimental depots at Exeter and Plymouth, *see* *ibid.*, pp. 123, 187.

<sup>1</sup> *See* A. M. Burke, *op. cit.*; *Derbyshire Arch. Soc. Trans.*, 1916, p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> *See* particularly Presidential Address, Vol. 14, 1882, for account of local histories and brief survey of classes of records available, and the Reports of Committees on Land Tenure and Records.

<sup>3</sup> D.A., Vols. 45, 46 and *passim*; also *Notes and Gleanings* (*passim*).

Board of Custom and Excise: for Customs Records at Barnstaple, Exeter, Dartmouth, and Plymouth, *see ibid.*, pp. 188, 243-244.

For Stannary Records,<sup>1</sup> *see* 1800 Rep., p. 259; 1837 Rep., p. 225, and G. R. Lewis, *op. cit.*

#### Statutory Authorities, etc.

For Turnpike Records, *see* S. and B. Webb, "The King's Highway"; W. Buckingham, "Account of the Exeter Turnpike Trustees" (1885), and 1919 Rep. (III), p. 84.

For reference to records of Street Commissioners of Plymouth, *see* S. and B. Webb, "Parish and County," p. 273, *n.*

**County Records** (The Castle, Exeter).—1800 Rep., p. 266; 1919 Rep., p. 89; "Quarter Sessions from Queen Elizabeth to Queen Anne," ed. A. H. A. Hamilton, 1878.

#### Town Records.<sup>2</sup>

*Ashburton* (U.D.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 429; 1919 Rep., p. 22; D.A., Vols. 8 (*passim*) and 28, p. 209.

*Barnstaple* (deposited North Devon Athenæum, Barnstaple).—1835 Rep., I, p. 429; 1902 Rep., p. 46; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), p. 203; "Barnstaple Records," J. R. Chanter and Thos. Wainwright, 1900; D.A., Vol. 11, p. 191.

*Bideford* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 437; 1919 Rep., p. 22; D.A., Vols. 4 (Pt. II), p. 400; 16, p. 670; 47, p. 306.

*Bradninch* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 457; 1837 Rep., p. 434; 1880 Rep., p. 20; C. Crosleg, "Short Historical Sketch of Honour, etc., of Bradninch," 1911.

*Chagford*.—D.A., Vol. 8, p. 62.

*Dartmouth* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 477; 1837 Rep., p. 443; 1902 Rep., p. 52; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 597; D.A., Vols. 43, p. 120; 44, p. 649 (and *passim*); 45, p. 233; 46, p. 411 (and *passim*).

*Exeter* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 487; 1902 Rep., p. 34; 1919 Rep., p. 89; List in Introduction to Calendar, compiled by Stuart A. Moore (1900); George Oliver, "History of Exeter," 1861; D.A., Vols. 44 and 46 (*passim*); *Notes and Gleanings for Devon and Cornwall*, Vols. II-V (*passim*); *Journal of British Arch. Assoc.*, 18, p. 306; H.M.C. (1916).

<sup>1</sup> The older records appear to have been lost, and only those since 1784 preserved in the private custody of the Clerk.

<sup>2</sup> Devonport (1902 Rep., p. 32) and Torquay (1892) are modern incorporations; Lydford, in 1837 Rep., p. 462, is stated not to be a borough and Honiton (*ibid.*, p. 458) was not in possession of its records. No information has been found as to records of Bovy Tracy, Modbury, or Paignton.

- Okehampton*.<sup>1</sup>—1835 Rep., p. 557 ; 1880 Rep., p. 85 ; W.A., Vol. 3, p. 233.
- Plymouth* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 579 ; 1837 Rep., p. 474 ; 1902 Rep., p. 38 ; H.M.C. 9th Rep., p. 262 ; 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 536 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26 ; *Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 39, p. 110 ; D.A., Vols. 14-17 (*passim*) ; "Plymouth Municipal Records," R. N. Worth (1893) ; Gross, *op. cit.*, p. 366.
- Plympton Erle* (R.D.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 599 ; 1880 Rep., p. 92 ; D.A., Vol. 19, p. 555.
- South Molton* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 613 ; "Records of South Molton," J. Cock (1893).
- Tavistock*<sup>2</sup> (U.D.C.).—1880 Rep., p. 148 ; D.A., Vol. 21, p. 305 ; W.A., Vol. 6, p. 8 (and *passim*) ; *Notes and Gleanings for Devon and Cornwall*, Vol. 4 (and *passim*).
- Tiverton* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 625 ; 1837 Rep., p. 502 ; D.A., Vol. 39, p. 216 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27.
- Torrington* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 633 ; 1902 Rep., p. 70 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27 ; D.A., Vols. 7, p. 89 ; 26, p. 313.
- Totnes* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 641 ; 1837 Rep., p. 502 ; H.M.C. 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 341 ; D.A., Vols. 6, 12, 32-34, 36-38, 40 (*passim*).

**Parish Records.**—A very large proportion of the existing Parish Registers<sup>3</sup> date only from the 17th century. Many have been printed by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and much information about individual parishes is given in the publications of the Devonshire Association. See also Cox and Burke, *op. cit.*, and H.M.C. 4th and 5th Rep. For the records at Kingsbridge Church, see *Devon Notes and Queries*, V, p. 94, and *ibid.* p. 255, for those at Churston Ferrers. For references to Vestry Minutes, see S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

#### Church Records.

- (a) *Bishopric Records.*—Diocesan Registry (Exeter).—1800 Rep., p. 323 ; 1919 Rep., p. 89 ; H.M.C., Var. Coll., IV, p. 13 ; "Episcopal Registers," ed. F. C. Hingeston Randolph.
- (b) *Cathedral Records.*—1800 Rep., p. 334 ; 1919 Rep., p. 90 ; H.M.C., Var. Coll., IV, p. 23 ; "Gleanings from the Municipal

<sup>1</sup> According to D.A., Vol. 34 (1902), the surviving records are now in private hands.

<sup>2</sup> R. N. Worth, "Calendar of Tavistock Parish Records," 1887, does not deal with those of the borough.

<sup>3</sup> For lost Parish Registers, see "Abstracts of existing Transcripts of lost Parish Registers of Devon, 1596-1644," R. Granville and W. E. Mugford, 1908, from Bishopric Records.

and Cathedral Records," etc., W. Cotton and H. Woollcombe, 1877; "An Old Exeter MS.," O. J. Reichel, 1907.

(c) *Archidiaconal Records* Exeter. See 1919 Rep., p. 90; Barnstaple, for list, see *Devon Notes and Queries*, Vol. 3, p. 127 (1905).

(d) Much information about Nonconformist history and records in this county will be found in the volumes of the *Devonshire Association*,<sup>1</sup> the *Western Antiquary*,<sup>2</sup> *Devon Notes and Queries*, IV, pp. 15 and 111; "Colytonia," G. Eyre Evans (1898); "History of Plymouth," R. N. Worth, 1890 (Ch. X). For Roman Catholic Records, see Catholic Record Society publications.

#### Public Institutions and Trusts.

(a) Barnstaple.—North Devon Athenæum; for some of MS. contents, see D.A., *passim*; *Devon Notes and Gleanings*, II, p. 49; Plymouth, Proprietary Library, see *Library Chronicle*, ed. E. C. Thomas, Vol. 3, p. 1; D.A., Vols. 28, p. 110; 31, p. 120; 33, p. 139 (and *passim*). Exeter Public Library, Davidson MSS, etc.; Exeter Museum.

(b) For information about Charities, see *Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 11, p. 98; D.A., 33 p. 272; and "History of Suburbs of Exeter," C. Worthy, 1892; W.A., IV, p. 59; "The Older Charities of Plymouth," by C. N. Worth, in Vol. 9 of *Journal of Plymouth Institution*, 1884-7, p. 25.

For Grammar Schools, see *Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 12, p. 67; and "Calendar of Plymouth Municipal Records" (*passim*); and "Barnstaple Records," *op. cit*; "The Founding of Exeter School," by H. Lloyd Parry (1913).

**Private Collections.**—For a list of these, see H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350. References to various private collections are given by the D.A., etc., W.A., and other local publications; also A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit*.

#### DORSETSHIRE.

There were many ancient liberties in this county (*e.g.* the Isle of Purbeck with Corfe Castle), also three or four considerable forests, but, for these, no local records seem to be preserved. The Quarter Session Records

<sup>1</sup> See especially Vols. 9, p. 250; 16, p. 489; 17, pp. 298 and 307; 21, p. 148; 28, p. 228; 32, p. 412; 34, p. 410.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Vols. 1, pp. 19, 98, 104, 169 (*passim*); 2, p. 1.

are a notable collection. The Borough Records are also of exceptional interest (*see Arch. Journal*, XXVIII (1872)). There are several ancient ports and creeks, but few Custom House Records of early date have survived. Nothing is known of the Journals of the Portland Lighthouse dating from 1716. The Ecclesiastical Records are subsidiary to those of the diocese of Salisbury. Useful references to the Dorsetshire Records will be found in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* (*passim*). The Committee on County Records published a report in 1878.

**Public Records.**—For the records of the Custom Houses at Bridport (1837→), Poole (1758→), and Weymouth (1694→), *see* 1914 Rep., p. 243.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—Many records of Turnpike Trusts are outstanding (Hutchins, "History of Dorset," I, lix); 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84. Poole and Bridport have special Harbour Commissioners.

**County Records** (Dorchester).—Session Records from 1625 (printed list), *see* 1800 Rep., p. 267; 1902 Rep., pp. 16-17; 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*

**Town Records.**

*Bridport* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1137; 1837 Rep., p. 438; 1902 Rep., p. 48; 1919 Rep., p. 23; T. Wainwright, "Bridport Records"; H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 475 (1899).

*Blandford Forum* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1131.

*Corfe Castle*.—1835 Rep., II, p. 1257; 1880 Rep., p. 25; Hutchins, *op. cit.*, I, p. 459; Purbeck Society's Papers (1859-1866), p. 194.

*Dorchester* (T.C.).—*See* "Printed List," ed. Mayo and Gould, (1908); 1835 Rep., II, p. 1305; 1902 Rep., p. 54; 1919 Rep., p. 23; C. H. Mayo, "Bibliotheca Dorsetiensis," pp. 1-150; H. J. Moule, "List of Dorchester Records" (1883).

*Lyme Regis* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1301; 1902 Rep., p. 64; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Poole* (T.C.).—1835 Rep. II, p. 1319; 1919 Rep., p. 26; Hutchins, *op. cit.*, I, p. 58.

*Melcombe* (*see* Weymouth).

*Shaftesbury* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1351; 1902 Rep., p. 68; 1919 Rep., p. 27; C. H. Mayo, "Municipal Records of Shaftesbury" (1889).

*Weymouth* (and Melcombe) (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1383; 1837 Rep., p. 508; 1902 Rep., Appx., pp. 76-77; 1919 Rep., p. 27; H.M.C. 5th Rep., XIX, p. 575; "Descriptive Catalogue" (H. J. Moule, 1883).

*Wareham* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1359; 1837 Rep., p. 502; 1880 Rep., p. 118.

**Parish Records.**—Comparatively few Parish Registers in this county appear to date earlier than the 17th century. Several early registers have been published in "Dorset Records". For an inventory of Parish Records, see R. Hine, "History of Beaminster," Ch. 13. For Dorset "Briefs," see *Som. and Dors. Notes and Queries*, VIII, 35. For Churchwardens' Accounts, see Cox, *op. cit.*, Ch. 3, and Hutchins, *op. cit.*, III, pp. 255-267 and (*passim*).

**Church Records.**—The county forms an archdeaconry of the diocese of Salisbury. The testamentary records are in the District Probate Registry at Blandford. The Court books of the Salisbury peculiars (*e.g.* Dorchester) are presumably in the Principal Probate Registry (Marshall, p. 17; 1914 Rep., pp. 201-203). Some early documents are still preserved at Wimborne Minster (Hutchins, *op. cit.*, III, pp. 255-267).

**Public Institutions.**—Notices of the surviving hospitals, almshouses, and schools in this county will be found in Hutchins, *op. cit.*

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep.; Humphreys, *op. cit.*, and Hutchins, *op. cit.*, pp. lvii-lviii (1873).

## DURHAM.<sup>1</sup>

Durham Records are surveyed in the publications of the Surtees Society (1834—in progress). These supplement and supersede the earlier county histories. The "Northern Counties History" has not yet published a volume relating to Durham.

The bulk of the records belonging to the County Palatinate were transferred to the Public Record Office in 1868.<sup>2</sup> A small residue, held by the Ecclesiastical

<sup>1</sup> For list of repositories of records, Co. Durham, see 1902 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> For records of the Palatinate, transferred to P.R.O., 1868, see P.R.O., *Rules and Schedules*, pp. 243 *sq.*; 1912 Rep., Pt. II, pp. 145-146; *ibid.*, Appx., p. 219. See also "The County Palatine of Durham". G. T. Lapsley, "Harvard Hist. Studies," 1900, Appx. (III), pp. 217-337, and Surtees Society, 1889.

Commissioners, remain at Durham. The jurisdiction of the District Probate Registry covers the greater part of the counties of Durham and Northumberland, and the borough of Berwick-on-Tweed. There are no adequate lists or calendars of the early County Records.

Some good series of Parish Records are available. A few of these have been printed by local societies. Most of the records of the towns (modern incorporations) have disappeared.

The Diocesan Records are completely inventoried (Catalogue, H. H. E. Craster, 1912), and there are sufficient lists of the valuable contents of the Cathedral Treasury. The Archdeaconry Records are a good series, well-arranged. The Durham University Library has acquired some historical MSS.

#### Public Records.<sup>1</sup>

*District Probate Registry* (Durham).—Wills from 1311. *See* Surtees Society, Vols. 2 and 28.

*Custom Houses*.—Stockton, Sunderland, West Hartlepool. *See* 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 245.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—River Wear Commissioners and other local authorities. *See* Local Taxation Returns, Part VI (1913-14). For records of Commissioners of Turnpike Trusts and proceedings of local Boards of Health (Darlington), *see* 1902 Rep., p. 52.; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84.

**County Records.**—Index incomplete. 1800 Rep., p. 268; 1837 Rep., pp. 229 and 231; 1902 Rep., p. 16; 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*, 107.

**Town Records.**—(T.C. in all cases.)

*Darlington*.—1902 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 52; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Durham*.—1835 Rep., p. 1509; 1919 Rep., p. 108.

*Hartlepool*.—1902 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 58; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*; 1919 Rep., p. 24.

*South Shields*.—1902 Rep., p. 40.

*Stockton*.—1919 Rep., p. 27, and S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Sunderland*.—1902 Rep., p. 44; 1919 Rep., p. 27.

<sup>1</sup> For Palatinate Records, *see* above (Prefatory Note), and 1919 Rep., p. 109.

**Parish Records.**<sup>1</sup>—For registers of Durham Cathedral Church, and other parishes, *see* Harleian Soc., Vol. 23, 1897; Surtees Society, Vol. 84 (1888); Northumb. and Durham Parish Register Society (*passim*); Robert Blair, "North Country Parish Registers". For Churchwardens' Accounts, *see* Surtees Society (*passim*); *Notes and Queries*, 8th ser., V, p. 188, and (for Stockton-on-Tees), *Norfolk Archæology*, I, p. 167.

**Church Records.**

*Bishopric Records* (Durham) from 1540.—1800 Rep., p. 309; 1837 Rep., pp. 269-271; 1912 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 95; Catalogue, H. H. E. Craster (1912); *Newcastle Soc. of Antiq. Proc.*, 3rd ser., V, pp. 167-176; 1919 Rep., p. 108.

*Chapter Records* (Durham).—1800 Rep., p. 343; 1837 Rep., p. 290; 1902 Rep., Appx. (III), pp. 108-109; *ibid.*, p. 225; Surtees Society (*passim*). For catalogue of Chapter Library, *see ibid.*, Vol. 7 (1838); 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Archdeaconry Records* (Durham).—1902 Rep., p. 108, and *ibid.*, p. 118; Catalogue, H. H. E. Craster, p. 8; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Public Institutions.**—For ancient foundations, schools, and almshouses, *see* Charity Commissioners Report, 1914; Hutchinson, "History"; Surtees, "History," and 1902 Rep., pp. 44 and 108.

**Private Collections.**<sup>2</sup>—For the Roman Catholic MSS. preserved in the College of St. Cuthbert, Ushaw, *see* H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 91. For MSS. in private hands (*e.g.* the Correspondence of Robert Bowes of Aske and other north-country families), *see* Surtees Society, *Archæologia Æliana*, and Humphreys, *op. cit.* (*passim*).

ESSEX.

There are a few ancient boroughs in this county, but others are of quite modern development, the records being of a parochial type (*e.g.* Southend, East and West Ham). The See of Chelmsford dates from 1914, the present diocese was included in the See of London in early times.

For a list of Essex MSS., *see* *Essex Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Vol. II, and *cf.* *Essex Review*, III, pp. 35, 264, and *Home Co. Mag.*, XIII, p. 161.

<sup>1</sup> Vestry Books of Bishop's Wearmouth, from 1661, are preserved in Auckland Archdeaconry, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 118.

<sup>2</sup> For list of these, *see* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350.



**Public Records.**—For the Custom House Records at Colchester, Harwich, and Maldon, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 246.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—Sewer Commissions.—For the local records at Chelmsford, Romford, and Colchester, *see* 1914 Rep., II, p. 100; there is also a Commission for the Canvey Island Sea Embankment. For Lee Bridge and Valley Conservancy, *see* under London. The Suffolk and Essex Conservancy Boards deal with fisheries. A local committee was constituted under the Sea Fisheries Act of 1888. Extracts from the Minutes of the Epping and Ongar Highway Trust have been published by B. Winstone (*cf.* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84).

**County Records (Chelmsford).**—1800 Rep., p. 268; 1902 Rep., p. 18; 1914 Rep., p. 148; 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*; H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 466.

### Town Records.

*Colchester* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 52; 1919 Rep., p. 23; and publications by H. Harrod and W. G. Benham.

*Dunmow* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 2215; 1880 Rep., p. 37; 1902 Rep., p. 276; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Harwich* (T.C.).—From 17th century, *see* 1835 Rep., p. 2261; 1902 Rep., p. 58; S. Taylor, "History".

*Haveringe atte Bower.*—1835 Rep., p. 2878; 1880 Rep., p. 40; 1919 Rep., p. 24; S. and B. Webb, "Hist Loc. Govt." (Parish), p. 46, *n.*

*Maldon* (T.C.).—*See* 1835 Rep., p. 2431; 1902 Rep., p. 66; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Saffron Walden* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 68; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 320, *n.*

*Southend* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 68.

**Parochial Records.**—Many references will be found in H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. p. 29, for documents of Dean and Chapter of St. Paul. *See Essex Review* for Alphamstone (I, p. 102); Boreham (I, p. 212); Chelmsford (V, p. 163); and published histories of S. Martin's, Colchester; South Weald; Copford; and Margaret Roding. Loughton documents are preserved at the Lopping Hall.

**Church Records.**—Records of the Essex and Colchester Archdeaonries are deposited at the Principal Probate Registry, London; those of the Essex Commissionary Court of Sokens are in the Ipswich Registry. For Nonconformist Records, *see* T. W. Davids' "History". Quaker Records are preserved by the Coggeshall Society of Friends. For registers of the Colchester Dutch Church, *see* Huguenot Society's publications.

**Public Institutions.**—Colchester and Saffron Walden have local collections (*see* Corporation Catalogues). The Essex Arch. Society's Library, at Colchester Castle, contains the Holman, King, and Nicholls, MSS. (W. H. Dalton, "Catalogue"). For ancient Grammar Schools, *see* V.C.H., *Essex*, II, p. 501; and *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, N.S. II, p. 91; the County Charities are described in Ch. Com. Reps.; *cf.* *Home Co. Mag.*, I, p. 161.

**Private Collections.**—For list of those officially examined, *see* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx. (III), p. 350. For the Southcote and Marsh MSS., *see* *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, N.S. IV, p. 100, and Vol. VI, p. 101.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The county boroughs of Gloucester and Bristol each possess important Collections of Documents, including those of central and departmental branch offices. A few modern records of the Forest of Dean remain in local custody. The County Records at Shire Hall, Gloucester, dating from 1660, were recently arranged, and a list published. Among them are books of Horsfield Prison, which represent a now rare class. There are some outstanding Turnpike and Navigation Trust Deeds in private hands.

The Diocesan Records of Gloucester have been recently arranged on new lines by Mr. Hockaday, but there is no adequate published description of those at Bristol. There is an important private collection at Berkeley Castle. The Phillips Collection at Cheltenham has now been partially dispersed. The Library of the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society, among other valuable MSS., contains Court Rolls of the Hundred of Cirencester and Archdeacon Furney's MS. Collections for county history.

### Public Records.

*District Probate Registries* (Gloucester and Bristol).—*See* "Calendars of Gloucestershire Wills," Index Library (Phillimore and Fry); "Bristol Wills" (1572-1792), Index Library (Bristol Record Society), and 1919 Rep., p. 103.

*Custom House Records* (Gloucester and Bristol).—*See* 1914 Rep., p. 244.

For records of the Crown Forest of Dean, *see* 1914 Rep., p. 251 ; and *Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (vol. 33), and *Arch. Journ.*, XVII, p. 227.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**<sup>1</sup>—Commissions of Sewers, Thornbury, Gloucester, Newnham. 1914 Rep., p. 100 (*see* also Worcester); 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84.

**County Records.**—A list of these is given as an appendix to Report of County Council Committee (1897). *See* also 1800 Rep., p. 270 ; 1902 Rep., p. 18, and 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*, 102.

**Town Records.**—(T.C. in all cases.)

*Bristol.*—*Notes and Queries*, 11 Ser., II, p. 450 ; 1902 Rep., p. 118 ; 1919 Rep., p. 103 ; *Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, VII (and *passim*) ; *Clifton Antiq. Club Proc.*, Vols. I-VII (*passim*).

*Gloucester.*<sup>2</sup>—*See* W. H. Stevenson, "Calendar of Records" ; H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), p. 400 ; 1919 Rep., p. 103.

*Tewkesbury.*—For notices of the records, *see* Bennet, "Tewkesbury," and 1919 Rep., p. 27.

*Dissolved Corporations.*<sup>3</sup>—For records in possession of Town Trusts, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 277.

**Parish Records.**—*See* publications of the Parish Register Society and also of the local Parish Register Society, and *cf.* Sir T. Phillips' "Excerpta" ; *Glouc. Notes and Queries*, and F. A. Crisp, "List of Parish Registers". Early Churchwardens' Accounts for Bristol Parishes have been printed : *cf.* *Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, XXVII, p. 221 ; *Clifton Antiq. Club Trans.*, Vol. I ; *Archæologia*, XXXV, pp. 409, 422.

<sup>1</sup> For important Port and Harbour Authorities and River Conservancy and Drainage Boards, *see* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14.

<sup>2</sup> Gloucester and Bristol have separate Sessions and Clerks of the Peace.

<sup>3</sup> The property of corporations dissolved by the Municipal Corporation Act, 1883, was vested in trustees under control of Charity Commissioners. Of these, Berkeley, Wickwar, Winchcomb, and Wotton have very few surviving records (*cf.* 1835 Rep.)—the others, Chipping Campden, Chipping Sodbury, Dursley, and Thornbury retain none. Notices of Berkeley Hundred Court Rolls will be found in *Glouc. Notes and Queries*, V, p. 85. Cirencester and Stroud were unincorporated parliamentary boroughs ; their records are manorial, but Hundred Court Rolls and a Register book of Cirencester Weavers (from 1580) exist. These two places, with Stow-on-the-Wold, Newnham, and Tetbury, had Local Boards of Health between 1850 and 1877 ; Cheltenham had Commissioners of Town Improvement from 1852 (incorporated, 1876). Some of the above are mentioned in the 1919 Report.

**Church Records.***(a) Gloucester.*

*Bishopric Records.*—1800 Rep., p. 319; 1902 Rep., p. 244; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*, and "Athenaeum," June, 1914.

*Chapter Records.*<sup>1</sup>—H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), p. 397; 1800 Rep., p. 335; 1902 Rep., p. 110; 1919 Rep., p. 103; *Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, VI, p. 334.

*Archdeaconry Records.*—See 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*(b) Bristol.*

*Bishopric Records.*—See 1902 Rep., p. 244, and 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Chapter Records.*—H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 97.

*Archdeaconry Records* of Bristol and of Dorset (formerly in the Diocese, kept at Blandford), see 1800 Rep., pp. 323, 333; 1902 Rep., p. 118; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Nonconformist Records.*<sup>2</sup>

*Woodchester—Dominican Priory.*—See H.M.C. 2nd Rep., Appx., p. 146. Catholic Registers have been published by Catholic Record Soc. (Vol. III, Misc. III, No. 12).

The records of Broadmead Baptist Church, Bristol, are published by Hanserd Knollys Soc., and the Registers of the French Church, Bristol (1687-1807), by the Huguenot Soc. (Vol. 20). For reference to the Baptist College, Bristol, see D.A., Vol. 17, p. 307.

**Public Institutions.**

Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Library Catalogue. For the Bristol Public Library and Museum, see David Murray, "Museums," II., p. 141; "Antiquary," XXIII, p. 260.

*Schools and Hospitals.*—*cf.* Fosbroke, "Gloucester," and W. Godfrey, "Famous Buildings," etc.

*Companies.*—The Society of Merchant Venturers and Society of Merchant Taylors, Bristol, have their own records, distinct from those of the corporation. See *Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (*passim*), and histories of the Companies, by Latimer and by Cox respectively.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350; "Catalogue of Charters" (T. H. Jeayes), and "Berkeley MSS." (Sir J. Maclean), (*Brist. and Glouc. Arch. Soc.*).

For the partially dispersed collection of Sir Thomas Phillips at Thirstane House, Cheltenham, consult Sotheby's Sale Catalogues.

<sup>1</sup> Bazeley's "Records of Gloucester Cathedral Library" contains little documentary matter.

<sup>2</sup> The Registry of the Catholic Bishopric of Clifton is at Bristol (founded, 1850).

HAMPSHIRE.

This county is rich in Naval and Military Records for the local commands, but the official records of the Isle of Wight and its forts have not been preserved.<sup>1</sup> The records of the New Forest are also fragmentary (V.C.H., "Hampshire," II, p. 438). No fewer than fifteen towns possessed the Parliamentary Franchise in 1832, but the records of the boroughs now extinct have mostly disappeared. The surviving Parish Records have been surveyed by private enterprise. The Diocesan and Cathedral Records have been dispersed to a considerable extent.

**Public Records.**—There is a District Probate Registry at Winchester for the diocese and county. The District Register Offices of Births, etc., for Southampton, Farnborough, and Isle of Wight represent old Poor Law Incorporations (Geo. III). For Admiralty Records at Portsmouth and Haslar Hospital, *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 185-186, 229-232, 236, and 259. For records of the Military Commands at Aldershot, Portsmouth, etc., *see ibid.*, pp. 186-187, 214, and 219. For early Custom House Records at Portsmouth, Southampton, and Cowes, *see* 1914 Rep., p. 243. For the records of the Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest, *see ibid.*, p. 251. For the records of the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton, *see ibid.*, p. 65.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—There is a separate Commission for Sewers in the Isle of Wight (Newport). The Local Fisheries Committee Records should be of exceptional interest (Test and Itchen).

**County Records.**—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 287 ; 1902 Rep., p. 24 ; 1919 Rep., pp. 5 *sq.* They have been recently arranged and listed.

**Town Records.**

*Alresford* (New), (T.T.).—1880 Rep., p. 8 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277 ; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Andover* (T.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 128 ; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Basingstoke* (T.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 430 ; 1902 Rep., p. 46 ; 1919 Rep., p. 22 ; Baigent and Hillard, "History" (1889).

*Bournemouth* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 48.

*Brading* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 677 ; 1880 Rep., p. 19 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277.

*Christchurch* (T.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 442 ; 1880 Rep., p. 24 ; 1902 Rep., p. 50 ; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

<sup>1</sup> A semi-official journal of the early 17th century has been published ("Oglander Memoirs," ed., W. H. Long, 1888).

- Farnham* (U.D.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 447 ; 1880 Rep., p. 143 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24 ; and *see* below, Bishopric of Winchester.
- Lymington* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 741 ; 1902 Rep., p. 50.
- Newport* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 771 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26.
- Newton*.—1835 Rep., p. 791 ; 1880 Rep., p. 85 ; V.C.H., "Hampshire," V, pp. 266-267.
- Petersfield* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 797 ; 1880 Rep., p. 90 ; 1902 Rep. p. 277 ; H.M.C. 10th Rep., p. 23.
- Portsmouth* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 799 ; 1837 Rep., p. 475 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26 ; L. Allen, "History".
- Romsey* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1329.
- Southampton* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 869 ; 1837 Rep., p. 483 ; 1902 Rep., p. 40 ; H.M.C. 11th Rep., pp. 1-144 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27 ; Southampton Rec. Soc. Publications ; J. S. Davies, "History".
- Winchester* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 893 ; 1902 Rep., p. 74 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27 ; H.M.C. 6th Rep., Appx., pp. 595-605 ; C. Bailey, "Archives," Appx., p. 4 ; J. Milner, "History".
- Yarmouth* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 913 ; 1837 Rep., p. 512 ; 1880 Rep., p. 132 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277 ; V.C.H., II, 240.

**Parish Records.**—*See* the Return of the existing records of the Archdeaconry of Winchester, compiled by Archdeacon W. A. Fearon and the Rev. J. F. Williams (1909) ; and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), pp. 37 *sq.* For Carisbrook Parish, *see* H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 499.

#### **Church Records.**

- (a) *Bishopric Records* (Winchester and Farnham).—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 309 ; 1902 Rep., p. 108 ; C. Deedes, Rep. on Muni-ments of Bishopric of Winchester (1912) ; and 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*
- (b) *Chapter Records* (Winchester).—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 341 ; 1902 Rep., pp. 108-109.
- (c) *Archdeaconry Registry* (Knightrider Street, E.C.).—*See* 1919 Rep., p. 93 ; 1902 Rep., p. 118.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—The ancient hospitals of Winchester are well known ; for these and the ancient Grammar Schools of the county, *see* V.C.H., II, pp. 251 *sq.* ; for the local charities, *see* Woodward, "Hampshire," I, pp. 251 *sq.*

**Private Collections.**—Those included in the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission are supplemented by many other collections, some of which are mentioned in the Victoria Counties History and Humphreys, *op. cit.*

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Apart from manorial and family records, in which this county is rich, the principal collections are found in the county town, and call for little comment. For certain purposes, neighbouring districts of Wales are covered by authorities within this county: *e.g.* Poor Law Union of Hereford includes some Radnorshire parishes, and the Probate Registry at Hereford contains Brecon and Radnor Wills. There is one early Commission of Sewers. The County Records are not remarkable; those of the borough of Hereford include some early incorporated crafts. The records of the Turnpike Trusts, and also of some ancient towns, have entirely disappeared.

The Diocesan Records, kept with the fine collection of early MSS. and books in possession of the Dean and Chapter, are said to date from 1228.

**Public Records** (District Probate Registry, Hereford).—Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1558-1858. *See* 1919 Rep., p. 102.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84. For Commission of Sewers, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 100, also Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14 for Malvern Hills Conservators; also Rep. of Sel. Com. of House of Lords, 1877, on Conservancy Boards for the Wye Navigation Trust (1695), etc., which was still in existence.

**County Records** (Hereford).—MS. Index. 1800 Rep., p. 271; 1837 Rep., p. 231; 1902 Rep., p. 18; 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*, 102.

**Parish Records.**—There are a few early Registers, those of Ashperton begin in 1521, but early Churchwardens' Accounts are very rare. *See* Duncombe, "History," and V.C.H. A few Registers have been printed.

**Ecclesiastical Records.**

**Bishopric Records.** For printed Registers (from 1275), *see* publications of Cantilupe and of Canterbury and York Societies; and for Consistory Court Books, etc., *see Notes and Queries*, IV, S., Vol. IV; 1800 Rep., p. 319; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 102.

**Cathedral Records.** *See* 1800 Rep., p. 335; 1902 Rep., p. 112; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; "Charters and Records of Hereford Cathedral" (W. W. Capes, Cantilupe Soc.).

For Records of Ludlow Archdeaconry, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 122; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*, and in "Shropshire" (*infra*).

**Nonconformist Records.**—For MSS. at Belmont Priory (O.S.B.), (Clehonger), see C. J. Robinson, "Manors, etc., of Hereford," p. 66; for Registers, etc., of Courtfield, see *Catholic Record Soc.*, Vol. IV, No. 12, and Vol. XIII, No. 4.

**Town Records.**<sup>1</sup>

*Hereford.*—Catalogue (W. D. Macray); 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; H.M.C. 13th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 283; Gross., *op. cit.*, p. 256; Hereford Municipal Records, *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, XXVII, p. 453; W. Collins, "Modern Hereford" (Appx.), and J. Devling, "Helps to Hereford History" (1848), for an account of Cordwainers; also J. W. Leigh, *Trans.*, Woolhope Club (1901).

*Leominster.*—See 1902 Rep., p. 62; G. F. Townsend, "Town and Borough of Leominster".

**Public Institutions.**—Harley MSS. at Hereford Public Library (Catalogue, ed. J. Cockcroft).

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep. Appx., p. 350; and 1902 Rep., p. 62; for Blount MSS. (Orleton), and Scudamore MSS. (Hom Lacy), see C. J. Robinson, *op. cit.*

## HERTFORDSHIRE.

The County Records are supplemented by the series of Quarter Sessions Records connected with the Liberty of St. Albans. The earliest records are at Hatfield House. A committee to safeguard Parish Records and Registers was established by the Bishop of St. Albans in 1894. The only Diocesan Records of early date are those for the Archdeaconry of St. Albans. The Consistorial Records will be found at Somerset House among those of London and Middlesex. For the seventy-seven parishes formerly under the jurisdiction of the See of Lincoln, reference should be made to the records at Lincoln and Peterborough: the Bishopric of St. Albans dates only from 1875. There is no Probate Registry. Non-testamentary Records are still preserved in the Registry of the Archidiaconal Court of Huntington at Hitchin. Of private collections by far the most im-

<sup>1</sup> The extinct Corporation of Weobley had Manorial and Leet Records in 1837 (see 1837 Rep., p. 507), but see *Midland Record Soc. Trans.*, I (Weobley). For records of Ross, see 1919 Rep., p. 104.



portant is that of the Marquis of Salisbury at Hatfield House. The Rickmansworth court rolls are among the Bridgewater MSS. at Walkden, Lancashire, and the Hale Collection was acquired by the British Museum in 1889.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—*See* 1919 Rep., Appx., (III), p. 84.

**County Records.**—At Hertford and St. Albans (W. J. Hardy “Extracts”); 1800 Rep., p. 272; 1902 Rep., p. 18; 1914 Rep., p. 151; 1919 Rep., pp. 3 *sq.*, 93.

**Town Records.**

*Berkhamstead* (U.D.C.).—V.C.H., “Herts,” II, p. 217; J. W. Cobb, “Berkhamstead”.

*Hemel Hempstead* (T.C.).—A few in custody of Churchwardens, V.C.H., “Herts,” II, p. 217; *Midd. and Herts Notes and Queries*, II, p. 73; *Midd. and Herts Notes and Queries*, II, p. 73; *cf.* 1914 Rep., II, p. 151.

*Hertford* (T.C.).—Typed Catalogue. 1835 Rep., p. 2883; 1902 Rep., p. 60; 1919 Rep., p. 94; H.M.C. 14th Rep., Appx. (VIII), p. 158.

*St. Albans* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2918; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; H.M.C. 5th Rep., Appx. (X), p. 565; *Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, XXVI, p. 143; A. E. Gibbs “Corporation Records”.

**Parish Records.**—For Parish Registers and other records, *see Midd. and Herts Notes and Queries*, Vols. I—IV; (Nonconformist) *Herts Genealogist etc.*, I—III; W. Urwick’s “History”; *St. Albans and Herts Archit. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, N.S., Vol. I, and local histories of Stortford and Studham.

**Church Records.**—For Archidiaconal Records (St. Albans and Chelmsford), *see* 1800 Rep., p. 316; 1902 Rep., p. 126; 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 202, 294; 1919 Rep., p. 94.

**Public Institutions.**—The Lewis Evan collection is in the County Museum at St. Albans, also the headquarters of the Archit. and Arch. Soc.; the Accounts of the Guild of St. John are in the Vestry of St. Michael’s, Bishop Stortford, and the East Herts Arch. Soc. possess the records of Eastwick. For the old Grammar Schools, *see* V.C.H., “Herts,” II, p. 47; *Midd. and Herts Notes and Queries*, I and II; *Home Co. Mag.* (*passim*). Hertfordshire Charities are described in the Charity Comm. Reps.

**Private Collections.**—*See* List in H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 351, also 1902 Rep., p. 132.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

This county is included in one shrievalty with Cambridgeshire. The District Probate Registry is at Northampton. For drainage of the Fens, *see* under Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. For Diocesan Records, *see* under Lincoln and Ely. The Archdeaconry Registry is at St. Neots. There is an ancient hospital, also a school and library at Huntingdon.

**County Records** (Huntingdon).—1800 Rep., p. 273.

**Town Records.**

*Huntingdon* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2287; E. Griffith, "A Collection of Ancient Deeds relating to the Borough of Huntingdon" (1827).

*Godmanchester*.—1835 Rep., p. 2235.

## KENT.

This county is rich in records, but as yet there has been little systematic publication of these, though extracts from various series have appeared from time to time in *Archæologia Cantiana*.<sup>1</sup> Hasted's "History of Kent," contains many extracts from original sources. The administrative<sup>2</sup> records of the Cinque Ports form a distinctive feature. The official archives of the liberty are partly at Dover and partly at New Romney,<sup>3</sup> but much information will also be found among the Municipal Records of the various members.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry<sup>4</sup> (Canterbury), Calendar of Canterbury Wills, B.R.S., 1916, etc.; an ancient "Incorporation of the Poor" is now merged in the Parish of Canterbury.

<sup>1</sup> The formation of a Records Branch (in 1914) should remedy this, and an attempt has been made, in Vol. II of the series of "Kent Records" (a "Handbook to Kent Records," 1915) to compile a list of places of deposit of documents relating to the county.

<sup>2</sup> *See* S. and B. Webb, "English Local Government (Parish and County)," p. 312, *n.*; "Manor and Borough," p. 373 *n.*; and 1835 Rep., p. 925.

<sup>3</sup> *See* 1914 Rep., pp. 165 and 206; H.M.C. 4th Rep., p. 428.

<sup>4</sup> For Testamentary Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and of the Peculiar of Shoreham, *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 199 *sq.*

For Admiralty and War Office Records preserved at Chatham, Hythe, Shorncliffe, Dover, Deal, and Sheerness, *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 123, 181, 183, 184, 188, 189, 215, 220, 259. For Custom House Records at Dover, Faversham, Folkestone, Gravesend, Ramsgate, Rochester, and Whitstable, *see* 1914 Rep., p. 242.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—Commissions of Sewers.—For a list of Commissions for the county, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx., pp. 98-100. For local harbour, drainage, and conservancy authorities, *see* local Taxation Returns (1913-14), Pt. VI. For Turnpike Trusts, *see* S. and B. Webb, "The King's Highway," and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84. Rochester-bridge (Wardens of), *see* H.M.C. 9th Rep., p. 285; *Arch. Cant.*, 27; *Kent Records*, II, p. 144.

**County Records at Maidstone**<sup>1</sup> from 1595.—1800 Rep., p. 273; 1902 Rep., p. 18; 1919 Rep., pp. 4 *sq.*, 98; *Kent Records*, II, p. 130.

### Town Records.<sup>2</sup>

*Canterbury* (Beane Institute).—1835 Rep., II, p. 685; 1902 Rep., p. 30; 1919 Rep., p. 98; H.M.C. 9th Rep., p. 129; *Kent Records*, II, p. 132; Gross, *op. cit.*, p. 185; A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit.*

*Deal* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 931; 1837 Rep., p. 444; 1919 Rep., p. 23; *Kent Records*, II, p. 135.

*Dover* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 941; 1837 Rep., p. 444; 1902 Rep., p. 54; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 114-116; "Dover Charters," S. P. H. Statham (1902); *Arch. Cant.*, 10, cxxxv; *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, 1884.

*Faversham* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 961; 1902 Rep., p. 56; H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 500; *Kent Records*, II, p. 136, and *Arch. Cant.* (*passim*).

*Folkestone* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 981; 1837 Rep., p. 447; 1902 Rep., p. 58; 1919 Rep., p. 24; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 590; Official Catalogue.

*Fordwich* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 987; 188a Rep., p. 35; 1919 Rep., p. 24; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 606; *Arch. Cant.*, 18; C. E. Woodruff, "History of Town and Port of Fordwich" (1895).

*Gravesend* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2865; 1902 Rep., p. 58.

<sup>1</sup> Quarter Sessions are also held at Canterbury (Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 428, *n.*)

<sup>2</sup> The following municipal boroughs are of recent incorporation: Bromley, 1903; Chatham, 1890; Gillingham, 1903; Margate, 1857; Ramsgate, 1884; Tonbridge Wells, 1889.

*Hythe* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1007 ; 1837 Rep., p. 458 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24 ; H.M.C. 4th Rep., p. 429 ; *Kent Records*, II, p. 138.

*Lydd* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1013 ; 1880 Rep., p. 72 ; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 516 ; *Arch. Cant.*, 13 ; A. Hussey and M. M. Hardy, "Records of Lydd" (1911).

*Maidstone* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 751 ; 1902 Rep., p. 66 ; 1919 Rep., p. 98 ; Official Catalogue (MS.) ; *Kent Records*, II, p. 141.

*New Romney* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1021 ; 1880 Rep., p. 80 ; 1914 Rep., p. 165 ; H.M.C. 4th Rep., p. 439, 5th Rep., p. 533, 6th Rep., p. 540 ; *Arch. Cant.*, 13 and 17.

*Queenborough* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 823 ; 1837 Rep., p. 477 ; 1880 Rep., p. 94 ; *Arch. Cant.*, 22.

*Rochester* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 843 ; H.M.C. 9th Rep., p. 286 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26 ; *Arch. Cant.*, 6 ; *Kent Records*, II, p. 143.

*Sandwich* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1043 ; 1837 Rep., p. 479 ; 1902 Rep., p. 68 ; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 568 ; *Kent Records*, II, p. 139.

*Tenterden* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1063 ; 1837 Rep., p. 499 ; H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 569 ; *Arch. Cant.*, 32, 33.

**Parish Records.**—In addition to the general authorities, including those for the Rochester Diocese, see "Records and Registers of the Diocese of Rochester" (*Kent Records*), 1912 ; "Records of Rochester" ; H. Fielding (1910) ; *Arch. Cant.* (*passim*) ; F. A. Crisp, "List of Parish Registers, etc." (1899).

### Church Records.

#### (a) *Bishopric Records.*

*Canterbury*.<sup>1</sup>—*Kent Records*, II, p. 119 ; 1919 Rep., p. 98 ; J. M. Cowper, "Marriage Licences".

*Rochester*.—1800 Rep., p. 319 ; 1919 Rep., p. 29 ; Publications of the Canterbury and York Society (*passim*) ; *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. 23, p. 101.

#### (b) *Chapter Records.*

*Canterbury*.—1800 Rep., p. 332 ; 1902 Rep., p. 108 ; 1919 Rep., p. 98 ; H.M.C. 5th, 8th, 9th, and 16th Repts., and Var. Coll., I, p. 205 ; Woodruff and Danks, "Memorials of Christ Church, Canterbury" (Ch. 17).

*Rochester*.—1800 Rep., p. 340 ; 1902 Rep., p. 114 ; 1919 Rep., p. 30 ; *Kent Records*, II, p. 127 ; T. Shindler, "Registers of the Cathedral Church of Rochester" (1892).

<sup>1</sup> Also at Lambeth, see 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 168.

(c) *Archdeaconry Records*.<sup>1</sup>

*Canterbury*.—With the Dean and Chapter, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 108 ; 1914 Rep., p. 199 ; 1919 Rep., p. 99 ; H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 498.

*Rochester*.—(Housed in the Bishop's Registry), 1902 Rep., p. 124 ; 1914 Rep., p. 199 ; 1919 Rep., p. 31.

(d) *For Nonconformist Records*.—*See* F. A. Crisp, *op. cit.*, pp. 12-16.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—For the Beaney Institute, Canterbury, *see* above ; for the Maidstone Museum, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 134 ; for the MSS. of the Kent Archæological Society there, *see* *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. 25, p. 256 ; for the records of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, Hythe, *see* H.M.C. 6th Rep., p. 511 ; for other Charities, *see* Charity Commissioners Report, 1853 ; for Leper Hospitals, *see* *Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, XI, p. 28 ; for endowed Grammar Schools, *see* *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, XII, p. 149, and Woodruff and Capes, "Schola Regia Cantuariensis" (1908).

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 84. The collections there dealt with are chiefly domestic in nature ; for a list of those mentioned in *Arch. Cant.*, *see* *Kent Records*, II, p. 162 ; for others, *see* A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit.*

LANCASHIRE.

Considerable attention has been paid to the records of this county by local societies and individual scholars, as well as by the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool. The Official and Statutory Records are important. The bulk of the records of the County Palatine were removed to the Public Record Office in 1873 and 1912, but a few early records are still preserved in the Seal Office at Preston and in the local registries of the Chancery Court of the Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>2</sup> The County Records, which have suffered many losses, also include types not usually found. The records of the Liverpool Court of Passage and of the Preston Town Guilds are of special interest. A large proportion of the greater towns represent modern incorporations, but some

<sup>1</sup> The Archdeaconries of Maidstone and Tonbridge are of modern foundation.

<sup>2</sup> *See* 1912, 1914, and 1919 Reps. (*passim*).

of these are mentioned in the 1902 Report.<sup>1</sup> Many series of Parish Records have been published by the local societies. Valuable MSS. relating to Lancashire will be found in the Lansdowne, Dodsworth, and other collections.

### Public Records.<sup>2</sup>

- (a) District Probate Registries.—Lancaster,<sup>3</sup> Liverpool, Manchester.
- (b) High Court of Admiralty.—Registry at Liverpool.
- (c) Registries of the Duchy and Palatinate Courts (Preston, etc.) ; 1914 Rep., Appx., Part II, p. 88 and (*passim*).
- (d) Custom Houses.—Liverpool, Preston, Fleetwood, etc., 1914 Rep., p. 244.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Commissioners of Sewers, *see* 1914 Rep., p. 100. For Quay Commissioners (Lancaster) ; Mersey Dock and Harbour Board (Liverpool) ; Port Sanitary Authorities (Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, etc.) ; *see* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-4, Part VI ; *see* also Sea Fisheries (Lancs. Laboratory Repts. *passim*). For Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84 ; and S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

**County Records.**<sup>4</sup>—(Preston), MS. Index. 1800 Rep., p. 274 ; 1837 Rep., p. 233 ; 1902 Rep., p. 18 ; 1914 Rep., p. 141 ; 1919 Rep., pp. 4 *sq.*, 108.

### Town Records.—(T.C. in all other cases.)

- Ashton-under-Lyne*.—1835 Rep., p. 1431 ; 1919 Rep., p. 22 ; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*
- Clitheroe* (R.D.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1483 ; 1902 Rep., p. 50 ; 1919 Rep., p. 23 ; "History" (Farrer) ; "History" (Harland).
- Garstang* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 1519 ; 1837 Rep., p. 453 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24 ; *Lancs. and Chesh. Antiq. Soc. Trans.*, XXX, p. 164 ; "History" (Fishwick).

<sup>1</sup> Barrow, Blackburn, Bolton, Bootle, Oldham, Rochdale, St. Helens, Warrington. For Bury, *see* 1919 Rep., p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> For records of the County Palatine, *see* 1800 Rep., p. 256 ; 1837 Rep., p. 221 ; 1914 Rep., p. 141 ; 1919 Rep., p. 19 ; D.K. 35th Rep., p. 196 ; *cf.* "Accounts of the County Treasurer and of the County Palatine of Lancaster" (Folkard).

<sup>3</sup> For Lancaster wills in Courts of Probate (Chester, York, and Richmond), *see* Lancs. and Chesh. Rec. Soc. (*passim*) ; and Chetham Soc. Publ., N.S. (*passim*).

<sup>4</sup> *See* Chetham Soc. Publ. (1859), and Lancs. County papers in Harleian and Lansdowne MSS.

- Lancaster*.—1835 Rep., p. 1597; 1902 Rep., p. 60; "History" (Simpson).
- Liverpool*.<sup>1</sup>—1835 Rep., p. 2687; 1902 Rep., pp. 36, 248; 1914 Rep., pp. 164, 206; *Lancs. and Chesh. Hist. Soc. Trans.*, XIII, p. 71; "Corporation Records and Documents" (Picton).
- Manchester*.—1902 Rep., p. 37; 1919 Rep., p. 109; Chetham Soc. Publ. (*passim*); *Notes and Queries*, 11th S., V, p. 74; *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, N.S., I, p. 49; "Court Leet Records" (Earwaker); "History" (Tait).
- Newton*.—1835 Rep., p. 2813; 1837 Rep., p. 473.
- Preston*.—1835 Rep., p. 1683; 1837 Rep., p. 473; 1902 Rep., p. 38; 1919 Rep., p. 108; *Lancs. and Chesh. Rec. Soc. Publ.*, Vol. IX; *Notes and Queries*, Vol. V, p. 478; "Court Leet Records" (Hewetson and Clemesha).
- Salford*.—1902 Rep., p. 40; 1914 Rep., p. 98; Chetham Soc. Publ. (*passim*); S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*
- Wigan*.—1902 Rep., p. 42; 1919 Rep., p. 27; "History" (Sinclair).

**Parish Records.**—For Lancs. Parish Records, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 138; *ibid.*, p. 140; also publications of Lancs. Parish Register Soc. (*passim*); Historic Soc. of Lancs. and Chesh. (*passim*); Chetham Soc. (*passim*); Report on Parochial Records, Registers, etc. (compiled for the Bishop of Liverpool), (1909); Liverpool "Vestry Minutes" (Peet); Manchester "Constables' Accounts" (Earwaker).

### Church Records.

- (a) *Bishopric and Cathedral Records* (Manchester).<sup>2</sup>—*See* 1902 Rep., pp. 104, 112.
- (b) *Archdeaconry Records* (Manchester, Lancaster, Blackburn, Furness).—1902 Rep., pp. 120-123. *See also* 1800 Rep., p. 120, and *ibid.*, p. 318; 1919 Rep., p. 31.

For records of Nonconformist bodies (Presbyterians at Bury and Manchester, and Lancs. Soc. of United Ministers, etc.), *see* Chetham Soc. Publ., N.S. (*passim*), and Manchester Lit. Club Papers (*passim*). For Manchester Unitarians, *see ibid.*, and also Lancs. and Chesh. Rec. Soc. (*passim*). For Quaker records, *see Lancs. and Chesh. Antiq. Soc. Trans.*, Vol. V.

<sup>1</sup> Records relating to the Liverpool Court of Passage are in the custody of the Registrar of the Court, as are those of the Salford Court of Record and Borough Court of Pleas.

<sup>2</sup> Manchester Diocese dates from 1847. The Cathedral Records date from the 15th century. Liverpool Diocese dates from 1880. For earlier Church Records, *see* Chester.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—For Lancashire Libraries and Special Collections, *see* Library Association 2nd Annual Meeting (Manchester, 1879) *Report*; *see* also Manchester Lit. Club Papers (*passim*).

For Salford Public Library, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 40; Wigan, *ibid.*, p. 42; Warrington, *ibid.*, p. 72.

For MSS. in the Libraries of the Historic Society of Lancs. and Chesh. Chetham Soc., and Rylands Library (Manchester), etc., *see* 1902 Rep., p. 132, and Catalogues.

For Charitable Foundations, *see* Victoria History, County Histories (*passim*); Chetham Soc. Publ., 1862 (Lancs. Chuntries), and (*passim*).

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 19th Rep., Appx., p. 351; Humphreys, *op. cit.*; *Notes and Queries*, 11th Ser. (*passim*); 1902 Rep., p. 248 (Liverpool).

## LEICESTERSHIRE.

The records of Leicestershire are somewhat scanty. The County Records date from the late 17th century. The only important Municipal Records are those of Leicester. Those of Hinckley appear to be missing, and Loughborough is a new incorporation (1888). The Ecclesiastical Records are limited to those in the Archdeaconry of Leicester, which are numerous and interesting. The Parish Records form another exception to the general scantiness of material. There are also a considerable number of old grammar schools in Leicestershire, the early records of which are generally in the hands of the parochial authorities.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry (Leicester).—For the Archdeaconry of Leicester (Diocese of Peterborough, formerly Lincoln), *see* below, Church Records.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—*See* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 84.

**County Records** (Leicester).—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 275; 1837 Rep., p. 236; 1902 Rep., p. 20; 1919 Rep., pp. 4 *sq.*

**Town Records.**—*Leicester* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 36; 1919 Rep., p. 25; M. Bateson, "Records of the Borough of Leicester" (1899); Printed Index (J. C. Jeaffreson).

**Parish Records.**—Documents relating to the Grammar Schools are sometimes preserved amongst the Parish Records. For extracts, *see* *Trans. of the Leicester Archit. and Arch. Soc.* and *Leicester and Rutland*



*Notes and Queries (passim)*. At Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray, Grants and Charters to the town appear among the Parish Documents, as well as the Accounts of the Town Wardens.<sup>1</sup> For the Parish Records of Loughborough, see 1902 Rep., Appx., p. 62. See also printed Return (Leicestershire County Council, 1896) of Documents in all Parishes (305) not included in Urban District Councils.

**Church Records.**—Archidiaconal Records (Leicester<sup>2</sup>), dating from the 15th century. MS. Indexes. See 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), pp. 27, 90; Rep. (No. 403) of Records Committee of Convocation (1906); also 1837 Rep., pp. 271-276; Index Library, 1902 (Calendar of Wills; Index Library, 1910 ("Index of Marriage Bonds," etc.); *Northern Genealogist*, I, p. 30.

**Public Institutions** (Leicester).—Free Library<sup>3</sup>; Town Library; Permanent Library<sup>4</sup>; Wyggeston's Hospital.<sup>5</sup>

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., *loc. cit.*

For the *Beaumanor* (Herrick MSS.), see *Leicester Archit. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Vol. 5, pp. 17-19.

## LINCOLNSHIRE.

The most valuable of the Lincolnshire Records are the ecclesiastical, many of which have been well edited by Canon Foster and others. The Borough Records of Lincoln are also valuable, and have been well catalogued. Those of Boston and other ancient towns have been occasionally described in various local publications—*e.g.* in the *Lincolnshire Notes and Queries* and *Fenland Notes and Queries*. Several important private collections have been described by the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Documents concerning the Fens are in the custody of the Sewers Commissioners, and reference should be made to the repositories in other Fen counties, such as

<sup>1</sup> See *Leicester Archit. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Vols. 3, 4, and *Assoc. Archit. and Arch. Soc. Rep. and Papers*, Vol. 16, p. 284.

<sup>2</sup> Some Leicestershire records are also preserved in the Bishop's Registry at Lincoln.

<sup>3</sup> W. G. D. Fletcher, "Notes on Leicester MSS." (1882).

<sup>4</sup> F. S. Herne, "History of the Town Library and the Permanent Library" (1891).

<sup>5</sup> *Leicester Archit. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Vol. 10, p. 29.

Northampton, Huntingdon, and Cambridge. The County Records, like those of Yorkshire, are preserved in regional repositories.

#### Public Records.

(a) *District Probate Registry* (Lincoln).—See C. W. Foster, "Early Wills," 1910; A. R. Maddison, "Later Wills," 1888 and 1891; H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), p. 573.

(b) *Customs* (Boston and Grimsby).—1914 Rep., p. 248.

#### Statutory Authorities.

(a) *Commissioners of Sewers*.—Holland (Spalding); Lindsey (Louth); Manley, etc. (Brigg); Yarborough, etc. (Grimsby); Kirton and Skirbeck (Boston); Lincoln (Grantham); see 1914 Rep., p. 100.

(b) *Drainage and River Conservancy*.—See Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14, p. 44.

**County Records.**—Holland (Spalding and Boston); Kesteven (Sleaford), and Lindsey (Lincoln and Spilsby); see 1800 Rep., p. 275; 1837 Rep., p. 462; 1902 Rep., pp. 20-21; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 107, and Appx. (III), pp. 88-89.

#### Town Records.

*Boston* (T.C.).—MS. Index; 1902 Rep., pp. 20-21 and 49; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Grantham* (T.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 454.

*Great Grimsby* (T.C.).—H.M.C. 14th Rep., Appx. (VIII); 1902 Rep., p. 34.

*Lincoln* (T.C.).—Printed Calendar (W. de G. Birch), 1906-11; H.M.C. 14th Rep., Appx. (VIII); 1902 Rep., p. 36; 1919 Rep., p. 107.

*Louth* (T.C.).—1837 Rep., p. 469; 1902 Rep., p. 76; R. W. Goulding, "Old Corporation Records".

*Stamford* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 70; see also *Official Guide*.

**Parishes.**—The Parish Records of Lincolnshire are interesting if not exceptional. Extracts from them and descriptions of them are published in local histories, such as Massingberd's "Ormsby," and in local antiquarian publications, such as the *Lincolnshire Notes and Queries*. Transcripts from the Parish Registers are to be found in the Bishop's Registry at Lincoln (*Assoc. Architectural Society*, Vol. XVI, Part II).

#### Church Records.

*Cathedral Records*.—H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), p. 553; 1902 Rep., p. 112; 1919 Rep., p. 107.

*Bishopric Records.*—See C. W. Foster, "Calendar of Lincoln Wills"; Index Library, 1902; A. Gibbons, "Abstract of Early Lincoln Wills," 1888; MS. Indexes; Index to Leicester Transcripts in Registry of Bishop of Lincoln prior to 1700 by C. W. Foster, 1909; see also 1800 Rep., p. 324; H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX), p. 573; 1919 Rep., p. 107.

**Public Institutions.**—Library of the Spalding Gentlemen's Club (Johnson's Hospital, Spalding)<sup>1</sup>; Grammar Schools at Louth and Grant-ham possess documents relating to the town as well as to the school,<sup>2</sup> and, like other counties, Lincolnshire possesses numerous local schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions.

### Private Collections.

See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 350; also:—

*Gunby* (Massingberd Mundy MSS.).—See W. O. Massingberd, "History of Ormsby".

*Harlaxton* (Mrs. Sherwin Gregory).—*Lincolnshire Notes and Queries*, 1910, p. 3.

*Louth* (Chronicle).—Lincs. Record Soc., 1891.

*Ormsby Hall* (Massingberd Mundy MSS.).—W. O. Massingberd, "History of Ormsby".

*Threethingham* (Cragg MSS.).—*Lincolnshire Notes and Queries*, 1913, p. 255.

## LONDON.<sup>3</sup>

### Public Records.

Although the County of London includes several outlying Courts, Registries, and Departments,<sup>4</sup> these are not regarded officially as local repositories, and they are included above under the head of Central Archives (Public Records).

<sup>1</sup> Printed Catalogue, see 1902 Rep., p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> See 1902 Rep., p. 76, and R. W. Goulding, "Louth Records".

<sup>3</sup> See also below, under Middlesex.

<sup>4</sup> Central Criminal Courts (Old Bailey), Principal Probate Registry, Land Registry Office (Middlesex), Royal Ordnance Factories (Woolwich), Deptford Dockyard, etc. See 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 87-89.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**

*Metropolitan Water Board*<sup>1</sup> (Savoy Court, W.C.).—MS. Catalogue, see 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 196 ; Appx. (III), pp. 89-90.

*Metropolitan Asylums Board* (Victoria Embankment, E.C.).—See 1914 Rep., p. 37.

*Port of London Authority*<sup>2</sup> (Leadenhall Street, E.C.).—See 1914 Rep., pp. 38-39, 79.

*Thames Conservancy*<sup>3</sup> (Norfolk Street, W.C.).—See 1914 Rep., p. 39 ; Appx. (III), pp. 85-87, and Reports of Select Committees (1884 and 1894).

The following authorities may have records of some interest in their custody<sup>4</sup>: Commissioners of Taxes for the Metropolis, Metropolitan Paving Commissioners,<sup>5</sup> River Lea Conservancy Board,<sup>6</sup> and the Trustees of London Parochial Charities.<sup>7</sup> The administrative records of the Central Committees and other Statutory Authorities located in the Metropolis will eventually prove to be of considerable historical value. There are also several collections relating to other localities.<sup>8</sup>

**County Records.**

(a) *County Council* (Spring Gardens,<sup>9</sup> S.W.).—Besides a very extensive series of administrative records (from 1889), the archives include records of lapsed Statutory Authorities (Tooting Bec Manor Rolls (1394-1887); Commissioners of Sewers (1557-1847); Metropolitan Board of Works ; London School Board, etc.); also various deeds, maps, and plans relating to London. See 1902 Rep., pp. 20, 148, 273 ; 1914 Rep., p. 100 ; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II and III). The Tooting Bec Court Rolls and Records of Commissions of Sewers have been partly published.

<sup>1</sup> Including the surviving records of the ancient Water Companies dating from 1614.

<sup>2</sup> Including early records transferred from the Thames Conservancy.

<sup>3</sup> Including early records transferred from former Authorities.

<sup>4</sup> See 1902 Rep., p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p. 103.

<sup>6</sup> Under 63 and 64 Vict., c. 117. Office, Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.

<sup>7</sup> 3 Temple Gardens, E.C.

<sup>8</sup> e.g. the Mersey River Commissioners at 56 Victoria Street, S.W. (cf. 1902 Rep., p. 14).

ng removal to the new London County Hall, S.E.

(b) *County Sessions* (Sessions House, Clerkenwell, E.C.).—Records (from 1889) of the London Quarter Sessions; Records (1657-1888) of the Surrey Quarter Sessions; see 1800 Rep., p. 277; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II and III); and "Middlesex Sessions Records" (Middlesex County Record Society), Vols. I-V.

### Town Records.

The records of the twenty-nine Metropolitan Boroughs created by the Act of 1899 are of varying value and their general character resembles that of the Vestry Records in the custody of the Corporations of London and Westminster, described below. No information was received on this subject by the 1902 Committee, and an inspection by the Royal Commission on Public Records could not be carried out.

*City of London* (Guildhall).—See Report on City of London (1894); 1914 Rep., Part I, p. 47, Appx.; (II), pp. 97-98, 154, 163-164; (III), pp. 56-59. Some important records have been published by the Corporation whose collection, which includes many Judicial Records, is one of the oldest and most extensive in Europe.

*City of Westminster*<sup>1</sup> (City Hall).—See Catalogues of the records of the Vestries of St. Margaret and St. John, St. Martin's in the Fields; 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 52; S. and B. Webb, "English Local Government," Parish and County, ch. vi; Manor and Borough, ch. iv.

### Parish Records.

These form three well-defined classes: (1) records formerly in the official custody of the London Vestries, since the Act of 1899 in that of the Metropolitan boroughs; (2) records remaining in the custody of the parish; (3) records deposited in public or local institutions or acquired by private individuals. These classes comprise: (a) records of parishes within the City of London, now deposited in the Guildhall Library; (b) records of parishes, within the City of Westminster, now deposited in the City Hall; (c) records of other Metropolitan

<sup>1</sup>This collection owes its importance to the inclusion of the Vestry Records of several London parishes.

parishes now in the custody of the Town Clerks of the several Metropolitan boroughs. The above collections include Parish Registers, Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts of early date and exceptional interest, together with memoranda and miscellaneous documents of the usual type. Some non-parochial and extra-parochial registers are in official custody. No adequate lists or calendars of these records have been published. A few lists have been printed for individual parishes, and general descriptions will be found in the following works: S. and B. Webb "English Local Government (Parish and County)," *Home Co. Mag.*, VI, pp. 322-323 and (*passim*); J. C. White, "History of London Churches and Chapels".

#### **Church Records.**

London is an important centre for Church Records. The official records of the Archiepiscopal Courts of Canterbury are preserved at Lambeth. The Episcopal and Chapter Records of St. Paul's are of exceptional interest; so too are those of Westminster. The ancient Archdeaconries include that of Surrey (Diocese of Winchester). The Consistorial Records were removed to Somerset House under the Probate and Divorce Court Acts of 1857. No outstanding records of the old Peculiars of Canterbury and St. Paul's, or of any ecclesiastical precincts or liberties have been traced.<sup>1</sup> The records of existing religious Societies and Trusts will be described below. Those in the possession of the Chapter of Minor Canons of St. Paul's are preserved at St. Paul's. The records of the Nonconformist bodies include the administrative archives (Minutes, etc.), of several denominations, but these are not always accessible

<sup>1</sup> As to the records of St Katherine's, see *Home Co. Mag.*, IV, *et seq.* For the Chapels Royal, see 1914 Rep., p. 14; and Appx. (II), pp. 69, 70, 171, 299.

to students.<sup>1</sup> The Central Archives of Nonconformist bodies include those of the Society of Jesus (English Province), English Presbyterians, Congregationalists, General Baptist Assembly, Methodists, Society of Friends, Unitarians, Plymouth Brethren, Countess of Huntingdon's Connection, Positivists, Swedenborgians, Catholic Apostolic Church, and Salvation Army.

There are also many foreign congregations of early origin, including the Jews, and the Dutch and French Churches.<sup>2</sup> The official addresses of the above bodies will be found in general works of reference.<sup>3</sup> There are few adequate lists of these records; some have been briefly described, and specimens have been printed in various works, and the printed literature of the subject is extensive.

*Archiepiscopal Records*<sup>4</sup> (Lambeth Palace).—See 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 167; 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 82; Andrews and Davenport, *Guide*, pp. 286-301; N. J. Hone, "The Manor" (Appx.), 1906.

*London Diocesan Records.*

(a) *Bishopric Records*<sup>5</sup> (Dean's Court).—See 1800 Rep., p. 308; 1837 Rep., p. 265; 1914 Rep., p. 168; 1919 Rep., p. 93; H.M.C. Var. Coll., Vol. VII., pp. 1-9; Andrews and Davenport, *Guide*, pp. 302-329.

(b) *Cathedral Records* (St. Paul's Cathedral).—MS. Index; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), pp. 1-72; 1800 Rep., p. 337; 1902 Rep., pp. 108-109; 1919 Rep., p. 93.

<sup>1</sup> Notable exceptions are found in the case of the Catholic and Congregational Archives and those of the Society of Friends.

<sup>2</sup> Besides the records still preserved at the French Church in Soho Square, early records of the Church of La Patente, Spitalfields, have been transferred to the General Registry Office, Somerset House. Those of the Dutch Church in Austin Friars have been deposited in the Guildhall Library.

<sup>3</sup> See also above, p. 140.

<sup>4</sup> Namely, the pastoral and temporal records of the Metropolitan See; those of the Ecclesiastical Courts have been referred to among judicial records. Other records are preserved at Canterbury; manorial records are in the custody of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

<sup>5</sup> Some Consistorial Records were removed to Somerset House in 1858.

(c) *Archdeaconry Records*: (Archdeaconries of London, Middlesex and Surrey, 23 Knightrider Street, E.C.).<sup>1</sup>—See 1902 Rep., p. 118; 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 93-95, 200, 201, 203; 1919 Rep., p. 93.

*College of Minor Canons of St. Paul's* (Minor Canons' Vestry).—1800 Rep., pp. 337-338.

*Westminster Abbey* (Dean and Chapter).<sup>2</sup>—List in preparation. See H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., pp. 94-97; 4th Rep., Appx., pp. 171-199; 1800 Rep., p. 338; 1837 Rep., p. 288; 1902 Rep., p. 116; 1914 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 45; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 92, 97, and 116.

*Westminster Diocesan Catholic Archives* (Archbishop's House).—Including Cardinal Manning's papers, records of the Catholic Chapter of London, the Douai Diaries, and miscellaneous MSS. See H.M.C. 5th Rep., Appx., p. 463; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 339; 1919 Rep., p. 98.

*French Protestant Church Records* (Church Library, Soho Square, W.).—Act Books from 1560. There is a Catalogue of the Library; *cf.* Report of the Committee of Enquiry on the French Protestant Church in London, Appx. (D), (Cd. 7138).

*Records of Dutch Church of Austin Friars* (Guildhall Library).—See W. J. C. Moens, "Preface to Volume of Transcripts".

### Public Institutions.

Certain Metropolitan institutions of national importance, or the headquarters of various activities, have been described above under Central Archives. The institutions mentioned below are properly of local interest, though including a few of national repute; their nature and value have been discussed in Section VII of this work.

Besides the collections mentioned below, a few original documents are exhibited in the London Museum (St. James's) and in the Soane Museum (Lincoln's Inn Fields). A few Court Rolls and transcripts of Ecclesiastical and

<sup>1</sup> Earlier records in St. Paul's Cathedral and P.P.R., Somerset House.

<sup>2</sup> Some early documents are exhibited in the Chapter House. For Consistory Court Records, see 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 202. A list is in preparation by Dr. E. J. Scott.



Public Records relating to Hackney are in the Tyssen Library (Town Hall, Hackney).

(a) *Libraries Museums and Institutes.*

*Guildhall Library* (Guildhall, E.C.).—MS. List. See 1837 Rep., p. 425; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 283.

*Lambeth Library* (Lambeth Palace, S.E.).—1800 Rep., p. 387; 1837 Rep., p. 393; H.M.C. 6th Rep., Appx., pp. 522-524; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*; *Home Co. Mag.*, VII, pp. 298-299.

*Sion College* (Victoria Embankment, E.C.).—See 1837 Rep., p. 425; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 336.

*Dr. Williams' Library* (Gordon Square, W.C.).—See H.M.C. 3rd Rep., VII, and Appx., p. 365, etc.; Andrews and Davenport, *op. cit.*, p. 343; Catalogue (W. H. Black); cf. J. C. White "Churches and Chapels of London," II, p. 43.

(b) *Learned Societies and Professional, Religious, or Charitable Associations.*—Amongst those of local interest the following possess archives of some historical interest: The Hon. Artillery Company, London Topographical Society, Medical Society of London, Society of Notaries Public, the Scriveners' Company and cognate bodies, together with St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Morden College, the Charterhouse, and Alleyn's College.

(c) *Academic Corporations and other Teaching Bodies.*—Apart from transcripts and memoranda the London University and College Libraries do not possess archives of historical importance. The schools, however, include Westminster and St. Paul's.

(d) *Trading Companies and Associations.*—As no serious attempt has yet been made to utilize this source of information, only a few of the most familiar types have been mentioned here without further identification: London Chamber of Commerce, London Stock Exchange,<sup>1</sup> City Companies,<sup>2</sup> Banks,<sup>3</sup> Insurance Companies,<sup>3</sup> Railway Companies,<sup>3</sup> Canal Companies, Tramway Companies,<sup>4</sup> Gas and Light Companies,<sup>4</sup> Industrial and Provident

<sup>1</sup> The earlier records are believed to have been destroyed.

<sup>2</sup> For the extensive bibliography of the publications dealing with these valuable historical records, see Gross, *op. cit.*, and the British Museum Catalogue. Their relations with the respective trades are now remote.

<sup>3</sup> Some of these collections are of considerable extent and interest. Their titles can be obtained from ordinary works of reference.

<sup>4</sup> These, like the railway and navigation companies, are concerned with public utility, see above, p. 150.

Societies,<sup>1</sup> Shipping Companies,<sup>1</sup> General Trading Companies,<sup>2</sup>  
Newspapers.<sup>1</sup>

### **Private Collections.**

Amongst the score of reports relating to London Archives issued by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, only a small proportion can be regarded as permanent historical sources by reason of their precarious existence as marketable commodities. A few notable collections, however, have hitherto been largely used by students, and most of these are of national rather than local interest. Some collections have not been adequately described, and the existence of others is practically unknown.

Another type of collection includes historical documents that are offered for sale by dealers and, in London, collections of this kind are both numerous and important. It has been suggested that the collective value of documents in the possession of solicitors, bankers, and other London agents is still very considerable.

### MIDDLESEX.

The close historical and topographical relations between this county and the new administrative area of the London County might seem to make a separate description of the records unnecessary. On the other hand, the existence of County, Town, and Church Records under separate authorities makes such an arrangement desirable. At the same time it will be found that the most important types of Statutory Authorities and Public Institutions are within the Metropolitan area.

**Public Records.**—There is an important Regimental Record Office at Hounslow,<sup>3</sup> and an early Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock.

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 219, *n.* 3. An official record is to some extent preserved by the Board of Trade.

<sup>2</sup> Many of these represent older firms. The interest of their records has been mentioned elsewhere (pp. 149-150).

<sup>3</sup> Many records are said to have perished in a fire here in 1915. For this and Enfield, see 1914 Rep., Appx., Part II, pp. 215 and 222.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For the records of the Great Northern Road Turnpike Trust in this county, see *Middlesex and Herts Notes and Queries*, IV, p. 91, and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (Guildhall, Westminster).—The Quarter Sessions Records, dating from 1549, form the earliest, most extensive and most important series now in existence. A typed Calendar of the Sessions Books, 1638-1738, is deposited in the Public Record Office. See "Middlesex Sessions Records," Vols. I-V. 1800 Rep., p. 277; 1902 Rep., p. 22; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 4 sq.; (III), pp. 1 sq., 62 sq.; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

**Town Records.**—There are no corporate boroughs outside the Metropolitan boroughs.

**Parish Records.**—These are probably important in view of the size of many townships in the county. Some are described in Burke, *op. cit.*; Cox, *op. cit.*, and *Middlesex and Herts Notes and Queries* (*Home Co. Mag.*) (*passim*). See also Lyson's "Environs of London," and Montagu Sharpe's "Antiquities of Middlesex".

**Church Records.**—See *Middlesex and Herts Notes and Queries*, II, 20, and 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), pp. 199-205; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 93; Appx. (III), p. 8. The records of the Archdeaconry of Middlesex, preserved in a London Registry, date from 1686.

**Public Institutions and Trusts.**—For records of Middlesex Charities, see *Middlesex and Herts Notes and Queries*, and *Home Co. Mag.* (*passim*); e.g. Finchley and Hanwell. For the Bruce Castle Museum, see *Home Co. Mag.*, XI, 142.

There are several ancient Grammar Schools (see V.C.H., "Middlesex"), besides Harrow School.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 351. Other collections of historical interest are mentioned in works of local reference.

## NORFOLK.

In this county there are few large towns, and therefore few important repositories of local records, but there are numerous Commissions of Sewers. The County Records are among the most ancient in England, while Norwich and Lynn possess exceptionally valuable records; but some town archives have been depleted through the activities of earlier collectors.<sup>1</sup> The Dio-

<sup>1</sup> See W. Rye, "Norfolk Topography," and H. Le Strange "Norfolk Official Lists" (Introduction).

cesan and Cathedral Records date from the end of the 12th century, but their contents are little known, and there has been no organized survey of Parish Records in this county.<sup>1</sup> The collections preserved in public institutions are negligible, but those in the possession of private owners are of exceptional interest, though some of those described in the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission may since have changed hands.<sup>2</sup>

**Public Records.**<sup>3</sup>—For the District Probate Registry (Norwich), *see* 1914 Rep., p. 140; for the Custom Houses at Yarmouth and Lynn (including Wells, Cley, and Blakeney), *see* 1914 Rep., p. 246.

**Statutory Authorities and Trusts.**<sup>4</sup>—For the Commissioners of Sewers<sup>5</sup> at Norwich (Eastern Hundreds), Loddon (Chet Valley), Lynn (Norfolk County), Yarmouth (Martham and Repps), Muckfleet (Winterton and Somerton), Wisbech (Ely and Norfolk), *see* 1914 Rep., pp. 98-100 and 166, and authorities there cited.

**County Records** (Norwich), dating from 16th century.—Catalogue (1904), *see* 1800 Rep., p. 280; 1902 Rep., p. 26; 1919 Rep., pp. 4 *sq.*

**Town Records.**<sup>6</sup>

*Norwich* (Castle Museum).—*See* "Catalogue" and "Norwich Records" (Hudson and Tingey); H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 102; 1902 Rep., p. 36; 1835 Rep., Vol. IV, pp. 2459-2466; *Notes and Queries*, Ser. II, Vol. V, p. 298.

*Lynn* (T.C.).—H. Harrod, "Report" (1874); H.M.C. 11th Rep., Appx. (III), p. 145, and 12th Rep., Appx., p. 247; 1835 Rep., pp. 2389 *sq.*; H. Le Strange, "Norfolk Official Lists," p. xiii (Intro.); *Notes and Queries*, Ser. II, Vol. V, p. 73.

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. W. Hudson and Mr. H. W. Saunders are engaged in important researches in the Chapter Records.

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the Townshend MSS.

<sup>3</sup> For various official registries in Norfolk, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 140.

<sup>4</sup> Besides Commissions of Sewers and Drainage Boards, etc., there are Harbour Authorities, etc. (*see* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14, p. 86).

<sup>5</sup> There are also more than thirty Drainage, Embankment, or Conservancy Authorities for this county under the Land Drainage Act of 1861, or earlier legislation. *See* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14 (Part 6), and Annual Report of Board of Agriculture, etc. (Tithes).

<sup>6</sup> For Holt, *see* 1880 Rep., p. 47.

*Yarmouth* (T.C.).—H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx. (I), pp. 299-324; 1902 Rep., p. 34; Le Strange, *op. cit.*, p. xii; "Repertory" (1855); *Norfolk Archæology*, IV, pp. 239-266.

*Thetford* (T.C.).—Var. Coll., Vol. VII, pp. 119 *sq.*; Le Strange, *op. cit.*, p. xv; 1835 Rep., pp. 2541 *sq.*

*Castle Rising*.—See Le Strange, *op. cit.*, p. xviii; 1835 Rep., p. 2211; 1880 Rep., p. 23.

**Parish Records.**—See *Norfolk Archæology* (*passim*). There are some of special note, such as the "Black Book" of Swaffham (1454). Others (like the Snettisham Churchwardens' books) are now in private hands.

### Diocesan Records.<sup>1</sup>

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Diocesan Registry).—See H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., pp. 86-87; 1800 Rep., p. 321; 1919 Rep., p. 29.

(b) *Cathedral Records*.—See H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 87; 1800 Rep., p. 339; 1919 Rep., p. 30.

(c) *Archidiaconal Records*<sup>2</sup> (Norwich).—See 1902 Rep., p. 124; 1919 Rep., p. 31.

### Public Institutions.<sup>3</sup>

*Lynn*.—Greenland Fishery Museum (Guide, 1912), Stanley Library (St. Margaret's Church Library).

*Norwich*.—Great Hospital (St. Helen's); Norwich Free Library (Catalogue 1908); Norfolk and Norwich Library (Guildhall Hill); Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society (*ibid*).

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 352; and the descriptive catalogue of the Literary MSS. at Holkham by H. Omont. For other local collections reference may be made to Norfolk Antiq. Misc., Vol. II, pp. 553-629; Vol. III, pp. 1-114 (Walsingham MSS); and 1902 Rep., p. 36 (Colman MSS). There were formerly some important "made" collections which have been mostly dispersed, but are still represented by that of the famous Norfolk antiquary, Mr. Walter Rye.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The shire comprises the Liberty of Peterborough, which ranks as a County Division, with a separate Clerk of the Peace and *Custos Rotulorum*.

<sup>1</sup> There is a Suffragan Diocese of Thetford, revived in 1894.

<sup>2</sup> There is an ancient Archdeaconry of Norfolk, also a modern Archdeaconry of Lynn. An Archdeaconry Court was held at Swaffham, and records may be still preserved there.

<sup>3</sup> For the schools and charities in this county, see V.C.H., "Norfolk," Vols. II and III, and Blomefield's "History of Norfolk" (*passim*).

For Commissions of Sewers, reference should be made to the adjoining counties.<sup>1</sup> The Town Records of Northampton are of considerable interest. Unfortunately most of the Court Records have perished through neglectful custody. Reference should be made generally to John Taylor's valuable bibliography, *Bibliotheca Northamptonensis*, 1868, ("posted" copy), in Northampton Free Library.

### Public Records.

#### *District Probate Registries.*

- (a) Peterborough (North Northamptonshire), with Rutland, Cambridge, and Hunts.
- (b) Northampton (South Northamptonshire), with Bedfordshire.  
See Index Library, "Northants, and Rutland Wills," 1510-1652.

**Statutory Authorities and Trusts.**—For the records of the Peterborough Improvement Commissioners, see below (IV). For the drainage of the Fens, 1578 and 1621, see H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 8; *ibid.*, p. 20. For the history of Bedford Level, see 1837 Rep., p. 118. For the general history of the drainage of the Fens, see *Fenland Notes and Queries*; S. H. Miller and S. B. J. Skertchley, "The Fenland, Past and Present," (1878); A. Gibbons, "Ely Episcopal Records," (1891), pp. 18, 19, 20, and 21; 1914 Rep., II, 100. For the ancient Peterborough Workhouse and House of Correction, see below (IV). For Turnpike Trusts, see 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

### County Records.

- (a) *Northampton*.—1800 Rep., pp. 281, 282; 1837 Rep., pp. 47, 312, 411; 1902 Rep., pp. 22, 23; MS. List.
- (b) *Peterborough* (Liberty).—Sessions Records from an early date, and administrative records of the County Council in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace. The charters relating to the Liberty from 1577 are said to be at Burghley House, in the custody of the Marquis of Exeter as *Custos Rotulorum*.

### Town Records.

*Northampton* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1963; 1902 Rep., p. 36; 1919 Rep., p. 26; C. A. Markham and J. C. Cox, "Records of the Borough of Northampton"; *Northamptonshire Notes and Queries*, Vols. I, IV, V, etc.

<sup>1</sup> See Norfolk, Isle of Ely, Bedfordshire, and Lincolnshire.

*Peterborough* (T.C.).—Records of the Corporation (from 1874) and of the Improvement Commissioners (1790-1874). The records of the earlier "Feoffees"<sup>1</sup> (1572-1790) and the early Guild Records (Richard II—Henry VII) still exist; for Judicial Records, *see* 1919 Rep., p. 26.

*Brackley*.—1835 Rep., p. 21; 1880 Rep., p. 18; 1919 Rep., p. 22; A. Green, "History of Brackley" (1869); B. E. Pearson, "Local Gleanings" (1881).

*Daventry*.—1835 Rep., p. 1841; 1902 Rep., p. 54.

*Higham Ferrers*.—1835 Rep., p. 2281; 1880 Rep., p. 44; 1902 Rep., p. 60; H.M.C. 12th Rep., p. 47, and Appx. (IX), pp. 530-537; R. M. Serjeantson, "The Court Rolls of Higham Ferrers".

**Parish Records.**—J. H. Glover, "Kingsthorpiana"; R. M. Serjeantson, "Histories of the Churches of the Holy Sepulchre," etc., Northampton; Phillimore and others, "Northamptonshire Parish Registers"; S. Madge, "Parish Registers of Moulton, with a Calendar of Moulton Parish Documents" (1903); *Northants Notes and Queries* and *Fenland Notes and Queries* (*passim*); J. C. Cox, *op. cit.*

**Church Records.**

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Peterborough).—1800 Rep., p. 322; 1902 Rep., p. 282; 1919 Rep., p. 29; Convocation of Canterbury Rep., No. 441 (a List of the Records in the Diocesan Registry).

(b) *Chapter Records*.—1800 Rep., p. 340; 1919 Rep., p. 30; H.M.C. 12th Rep., p. 45, and Appx. (IX), pp. 580-585.

(c) *Archdeaconry Records*.—The records of Northampton and Oakham<sup>2</sup> Archdeaconries are at the Registrar's Office, Precincts, Peterborough. *See* Convocation Rep., No. 441; 1919 Rep., p. 30.

The County was an early stronghold of Nonconformity. *See* V.C.H., "Northamptonshire," Vol. II, pp. 43-75, and Kelly's "Directory for Nonconformist Churches".

<sup>1</sup> These include documents relating to Almshouses, the early Peterborough Workhouse and House of Correction, and Deacon's School.

<sup>2</sup> The Archdeaconry of Oakham includes, besides the county of Rutland, deaneries of Peterborough, Oundle, Weldon, and Higham Ferrers, in Northamptonshire.

**Public Institutions.**

*Northampton.*—Museum and Free Library.<sup>1</sup>

*Peterborough.*—Museum<sup>2</sup> and Free Library.<sup>3</sup>

For Schools, *see* V.C.H., "Northamptonshire" II, pp. 201-288. The records of several ancient charities are deposited with the Borough Records at Northampton. *See* C. A. Markham and J. C. Cox, *op. cit.*, and "Northampton Church Charities" (1849); others are presumably in the custody of the Trustees of Peterborough United Charities since 1907. For records of Peterborough Almshouses, Deacon's School, *see* above.

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 352. Some of these collections have since been moved. Other interesting collections, such as those at Easton Neston and Rockingham, still await description. *See* also "Tracts Relating to Northants" (Papers of the Tresham Family).

## NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Northumberland Probate and Diocesan Registries contain no Testamentary Records of early date. These are preserved at Durham, the cathedral city of the ancient and undivided diocese. The diocese of Newcastle dates from 1882. The modern Statutory Authorities are represented by the River Tyne Improvement Commissioners, North Sea Fisheries Committee, etc. The Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce dates from 1816. The borough collections furnish types of the ancient Manorial, and of the most modern Municipal Records. Those of Alnwick, Hexham, Morpeth, and Newminster, are now dispersed. The Parish Records are surveyed by the Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society. Valuable MSS. relating to the two counties are preserved in local institutions. The private collections are enriched by records of the ancient seigniorial jurisdictions, once in the town chests of the manorial boroughs.

<sup>1</sup> A collection of about 300 MSS. from temp. Edward II.

<sup>2</sup> The Museum contains a small collection of miscellaneous MSS.

<sup>3</sup> Including the Library and Minute Books of the former "Peterborough Gentlemen's Society" (1730), (*Fenland Notes and Queries*, IV, p. 384).



Documents relating to the counties of Northumberland and Durham are printed by the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, *Archæologia Æliana* (1822, etc.),<sup>1</sup> and by the Surtees Society (1834, etc.). The history of Northumberland, in course of publication by the Northern Counties History Committee (Vols. I-X, 1893, etc.), supersedes the earlier histories.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), for Northumberland County, including counties of the towns of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1882) and Berwick-on-Tweed. For Customs Records at Berwick, N. Shields, and Newcastle, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 245.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For authorities representing Harbour and Dock Boards, etc., *see* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14, Part VI; for Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—MS. Index (incomplete), *see* 1800 Rep., p. 282; 1837 Rep., p. 239; 1902 Rep., pp. 22 and 138; 1919 Rep., pp. 5 *sq.*; Surtees Soc. Publ., 1891.

**Town Records.**<sup>2</sup>

*Alnwick* (R.D.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1411; 1880 Rep., p. 6; 1902 Rep., p. 138; 1919 Rep., p. 22; "Hist. of Northumberland," I, pp. 169 *sq.*; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Bamborough*.—No records, *see* "Hist. of Northumberland," I, pp. 112-174; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Berwick* (T.C. and Treasurer).—H.M.C. 3rd Rep., XXI, and Appx., p. 308; *ibid.* 16th Rep., p. 93; *ibid.* Var. Coll., I, pp. 1-18; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Hexham* (R.D.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 138; 1919 Rep., p. 24; "Hist. of Northumberland," III, p. 236; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Morpeth* (T.C.).—Printed calendar. 1837 Rep., p. 471; 1902 Rep., p. 138; H.M.C. 6th Rep., Appx., pp. 526 *sq.*; *Arch. Æliana* XVI, pp. 52-75; *Notes and Queries*, S. XI (1912), Vol. V., p. 74; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

*Newcastle-upon-Tyne* (T.C.).—MS. Lists and Indices. 1902 Rep., p. 36; 1919 Rep., p. 25; Surtees Soc. Publ., Vols. 95 and 101; *Notes and Queries*, S. XI (1912), Vol. V, p. 297; *Archæolog. Proc.* (*passim*); "History" Brand (1789).

<sup>1</sup> Index Volume, 1896-7.

<sup>2</sup> For ancient boroughs disfranchised before 1689, *see* S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 199. For manorial boroughs of Northumberland and Durham, *see ibid.*, p. 206. For printed list of Northumberland Municipal Records to date, *see Notes and Queries*, S. XI (1912).

*Tynemouth* (T.C.).—"Hist. of Northumberland," VIII, p. 24.

*Warkworth* (P.C.).—1919 Rep., p. 27; "Hist. of Northumberland," V, p. 144.

**Parish Records.**—See Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Soc. Publ. (*passim*); *Newcastle Soc. of Antiq. Proc.* (*passim*); North Country Parish Registers, and list of parochial and non-parochial registers, Counties of Northumberland and Durham (H. M. Wood, 1893-1907).

**Church Records.**—For Archdeaconry Records of Northumberland and Lindisfarne, parochial in character, see 1902 Rep., p. 122. For R.C. Wills enrolled with Sessions Records, see 1902 Rep., p. 138; for Presbyterian Deeds and Registers (from 1694), at St. George's, Morpeth, see 1902 Rep., p. 130.

#### Public Institutions.

*The Library of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries* has valuable MSS. relating to Newcastle, and Northumberland County. See 1837 Rep., p. 427; 1902 Rep., p. 138; printed Catalogue, 1896; see also *Arch. Æliana*, 1903; Catalogue of Brumell Charters.

*Central Public Library*, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Coleman and Greenwell MSS.). For records of hospitals and grammar schools, see "Hist. of Northumberland" (*passim*).

*Gateshead Public Library.*—Some Judicial Records of the Palatinate of Durham (1660-1830) were deposited here by the Master of the Rolls in 1912.

**Private Collections.**—See 1902 Rep., p. 138; H.M.C. 18th Rep. (Index); Surtees Soc. and *Archæologia Æliana* (*passim*).

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

The private collections in this county are more noticeable than those in public custody, with the exception of the Municipal Records of Nottingham City and the Ecclesiastical Records of Southwell Minster. The records of smaller towns like East Retford have disappeared, and some are known to be in private hands. The "Dukery Records" are represented by the Portland, Middleton, Savile, and Foljambe collections, but in spite of the great work of Thoroton, the local records of this county have not been fully utilized for historical research. During recent years, however, more has been done by the County Council and the Nottingham Corporation in this direction.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry<sup>1</sup> (Nottingham).

**Statutory Authorities.**—For Commissions of Sewers.—Newark (Nottingham County), Retford (Notts. and Yorks., West Riding; Rivers Idle, Ryton, etc.),<sup>2</sup> *see* 1914 Rep., p. 101; for Drainage Committees, *see* "Local Taxation Returns" (1913-14), Part VI, p. 46; for Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (Newark).—1800 Rep., p. 284; 1837 Rep., p. 243; 1902 Rep., p. 23; MS. Index; 1919 Rep., p. 5 *sq.* A Calendar of 17th Century Records has been published by the Corporation (1915).

**Town Records.**<sup>3</sup>

*Newark* (T.C.).—MS. Calendar, *see* H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX); 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Nottingham* (T.C.).—Selections from the records published by the Corporation (ed. W. H. Stevenson), 1882-1900; MS. Calendar, (by Stuart A. Moore), *see* also H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 105; 1902 Rep., pp. 38-39.

*East Retford*<sup>4</sup> (T.C.).—MS. List and Calendar, 1837 Rep., p. 478; 1902 Rep., p. 56; 1919 Rep., p. 26.

**Parish Records.**—A survey of the Parochial Records was made by the County Council (MS. Report). Many Parish Registers date back to the 16th century; there are also transcripts at Southwell. Some interesting records have been noted.<sup>5</sup>

**Ecclesiastical.**

*Diocesan Records* (Southwell Cathedral).—*See* H.M.C. 12th Rep., Appx. (IX); Camden Soc., "Visitations and Memorials of Southwell Minster" (ed. A. F. Leach, 1891); for the Archdeaconry Records preserved in the Registry at Nottingham, *see* J. T. Godfrey, "Notes on the Archdeaconry of Nottingham" (1896).

*Nonconformist Bodies.*—For the records (18th century) of the Nottingham George St. Baptist Church, *see* J. T. Godfrey and J. Ward, "History of Friars' Lane Baptist Church," Preface, p. xii, 1903.

**Public Institutions.**—There are numerous charities of ancient date in this county. In some cases records will be found in the custody of

<sup>1</sup> For the County and City of Nottingham. Wills from the Manorial Courts of Mansfield and Gringley-on-the-Hill, and from the Peculiar Courts of Southwell and Kinoulton are deposited here.

<sup>2</sup> *See* also Brigg and Louth (Lincolnshire).

<sup>3</sup> For Worksop Charters, *see* below, Hodsock Priory MSS.

<sup>4</sup> Some records have been misappropriated in connection with a Chancery suit prior to 1833.

<sup>5</sup> *Thoroton Soc. Trans.*, 1915, p. 22.

trustees (as at Retford and Nottingham), but in most cases such as survive will have been deposited with the records in the custody of Municipal or of Urban and Parish Councils; for the Nottingham Castle Museum, *see* Guide to Nottingham Castle.

**Private Collections.**—Besides the collections reported on by the Historical MSS. Commission, the following may be noted: Clumber (Newcastle MSS.)<sup>1</sup>; Hodsock Priory (Mellish MSS.)<sup>2</sup>; Serlby (Galway MSS.)<sup>3</sup>; Skegby Hall, Mansfield (Dodsley MSS.)<sup>4</sup>; Ward MSS., *see* J. T. Godfrey, "MSS. relating to County of Nottingham in the possession of Mr. J. Ward" (1900).

### OXFORDSHIRE.

The best known records of Oxfordshire are those preserved in the University and city of Oxford. Many local records belonging to towns, parishes, and manors in this county are now among the archives and deposited collections of the University and its constituent colleges. Extracts from, and descriptions of, many of these local records, including valuable monastic cartularies, have been published by the Oxford Historical and Archæological Societies. A list of municipal records, in the possession of the University and Colleges, has been compiled by Mr. F. Madan (1887), and a list of Wills in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, by Mr. R. L. Poole (1912).<sup>5</sup>

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry (Oxford).—Records since 1857; the earlier are at Somerset House. For these and other Departmental Records, *see* 1919 Rep., pp. 95-97.

**Statutory Authorities.**—For Turnpike Trust Records, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (Oxford).—1800 Rep., p. 285; 1902 Rep., p. 26; 1919 Rep., p. 95.

<sup>1</sup> *See* R. White, "Dukery Records," 1904, p. 355.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1905, C. Brown, "Worksop Priory". The Mellish MSS. include the Charters of Worksop.

<sup>3</sup> S. Raine, "History of Blithe," p. 115; Monckton Papers, E. Peacock, ed. Philobiblon Soc., 1884.

<sup>4</sup> *Thoroton Soc. Trans.*, 1904.

<sup>5</sup> *cf.* the Index of these by J. Griffiths (1862).

**Town Records.**

*Burford*.—The salvage and reconstruction of the Town Records in recent years indicates what might be done in other cases. *See* R. H. Gretton, "Burford Records" (1918), and *cf.* H.M.C. Rep., Var. Coll., I, p. 29; 1837 Rep., p. 438; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*Chipping Norton*.—1902 Rep., p. 50.

*Henley-on-Thames*.—J. S. Burn, "History of Henley-on-Thames," p. 51 (1861).

*Oxford* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 95; 1902 Rep., p. 6; 1919 Rep., p. 95, and W. H. Turner, "Selections from the Records of the City of Oxford" (1880), Preface, p. v; "Oxford City Documents" (Oxford Historical Society, No. 18).

*Woodstock* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 74; 1919 Rep., p. 86; A. Ballard, "Chronicle" (1896).

**Parish Records.**

Many Oxfordshire Parish Records are in the University and College collections and muniment rooms. Extracts and lists of some of them are published by the Oxford Historical Society and the Oxford Archæological Society,<sup>1</sup> also in local histories.<sup>2</sup> Many of the Oxfordshire parish registers date from the 16th century.

**Church Records.**

*Cathedral Records* (Oxford).—1800 Rep., p. 340; 1902 Rep., p. 114; 1919 Rep., p. 96.

*Bishopric Records* (Oxford).—1800 Rep., p. 324; 1902 Rep., p. 106; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Archdeaconry Records* (Oxford).—1902 Rep., p. 124; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Public Institutions.**

The importance of such minor collections<sup>3</sup> as are available for the city and county at large is eclipsed by the splendour of the University and College collections. Academic interest in the local records generally is responsible for some valuable publications, but their

<sup>1</sup> *e.g.* Vol. 24 (Oxfordshire Parishes), and *Collectanea* (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* Kennett's "Parochial Antiquities"; Blomfield's "Bicester".

<sup>3</sup> *e.g.* Ewelme Almshouses (H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 624) and Witney Grammar School (W. J. Monk, "History," 1894).

description, as a whole, has been neglected, while they have been, in many cases, removed from their original custody. The University Archives have been at last defined and described by Mr. R. L. Poole.<sup>1</sup> The College Archives have not been generally described; but several serviceable catalogues of literary and historical manuscripts have been published.<sup>2</sup> These include some of official origin, but a larger number of Public Records and State Papers will be found in the Bodleian or (as transcripts) in the Ashmolean Library:—

*See* 1800 Rep., pp. 348 and 355; 1837 Rep., p. 290; 1902 Rep., p. 138; Catalogue of the Ashmolean Museum (1836); Catalogue of MSS. in Oxford Colleges, H. O. Coxe (1852); Catalogue of Charters and Rolls, H. O. Coxe and W. H. Turner (1878); Summary Catalogue of Western Manuscripts, J. F. Madan (1895).

#### **Private Collections.**

*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., and A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit.*

*For the Parsons MSS.* (Elsfield Manor).—"Oxford Historical Society Collectanea," Ser. V, p. 230.

### RUTLAND.

The records of this small county do not appear to be numerous, or of special interest, with the exception, perhaps, of the private collection at Burley-on-the-Hill. There are no municipal boroughs, and the official reports on Civil Records are scanty.<sup>3</sup> For Ecclesiastical Records, other than parochial, recourse must be had to neighbouring counties.<sup>4</sup> The *Rutland Magazine* and *County Historical Record* contains many extracts from County and Parish Records and documents in private collections.

<sup>1</sup> "History of the University Archives" (1912).

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* All Souls College (ed. C. T. Martin), Magdalen (ed. W. D. Macray). For Balliol College and Brasenose College, *see* Oxford Historical Society Publications.

<sup>3</sup> For Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

<sup>4</sup> The District Probate Registry is at Northampton.

**County Records.**—1800 Rep., p. 285; *Rutland Magazine* and *County Historical Record*; 1919 Rep., p. 5 sq.

**Town Records.**

*Oakham.*—Manorial Records at Burley-on-the-Hill (1910). See 1919 Rep., p. 26.

*Uppingham.*—Manorial Records presumably at Exton (Earl of Gainsborough).

**Parish Records.**—A few of early date (*e.g.* North Luffenham) have been printed. See Rutland Archæological Society's Reports; *Rutland Magazine, etc.*

**Public Institutions.**—*Oakham.*—Lending Library<sup>1</sup> (special collections). Hospital<sup>2</sup> of St. John the Evangelist and St. Anne (1398); (B. A. Adam, Esq., Solicitor, 7 Catmore Street. Oakham.) Schools<sup>3</sup> (Oakham and Uppingham), see V.C.H., "Rutland," I, pp. 261-281; Sargent, "The Book of Oakham School" (1906).

**Private Collections.**—H.M.C. 7th Rep., xiv, and Appx., pp. 511-518; 8th Rep., Appx., p. 640; Rep. on the MSS. of A. G. Finch, Esq., of Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutland, Vol. I (1913); P. Finch, "History of Burley-on-the-Hill," 2 vols. (1901). (Vol. II, pp. 45-67, gives a list of the MSS.) There is a collection at Exton belonging to the Earl of Gainsborough, dating from the 14th century, which has not been calendared.

SHROPSHIRE.

The collections of documents in this county are valuable and extensive, and have been unusually well arranged and described by various local authorities and societies. A brief general account of them was furnished to the Local Records Committee (*see* 1902 Rep., Appx. pp. 132, 250, etc.). The War Office records for the Western Command, at Shrewsbury, include military records for Wales. Besides those of the county town the records of several ancient boroughs have been catalogued or described. A high proportion of the Parish Registers have been printed, and the returns to an inquiry by the County Council, published under the

<sup>1</sup> Not a free library. It contains special County History, Archæological and Antiquarian Collections.

<sup>2</sup> Documents relating to the Hospital are in the British Museum, and at Lambeth Palace.

<sup>3</sup> For schools generally, see V.C.H., "Rutland," I, pp. 259-300.

title of "Shropshire Parish Documents," is a most valuable work of its kind. A report by the Endowments Committee of the County Council on Shropshire charities for elementary education, was compiled in 1906 from the reports of the Charity Commissions, 1819-37, for the county, omitting the boroughs of Shrewsbury and Wenlock.

### Public Records.

*District Probate Registry* (Shrewsbury).—For the Archdeaonries of Shrewsbury (Lichfield), Ludlow (Hereford), and Montgomery (St. Asaph), see 1919 Rep., p. 101; and Marshall, *op. cit.*, pp. 18, 46. For wills formerly belonging to the Palmer's Guild at Town Hall, Ludlow, see *ibid.*, p. 36; cf. 1902 Rep., p. 64.

*Regimental Record Offices* (Shrewsbury and Whitchurch).—See 1914 Rep., pp. 123, 220.

**Statutory Authorities.**—For Turnpike Trusts, see 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.* Poor Law Incorporations will be found at Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

**County Records.**—See "Shropshire County Records," by Offley Wakeman; and also *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Ser. 2, III, p. 209; IV, p. 65, for Quarter Sessions; 1800 Rep., p. 286; 1837 Rep., p. 245; 1902 Rep., pp. 250-251; 1919 Rep., p. 100; and for Turnpike Deeds and Plans, see *ibid.* (III), p. 85.

### Town Records<sup>1</sup> (T.C. in all cases).

*Bishop's Castle.*—See *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, X, p. 124; H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 399; 1880 Rep., p. 14; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Bridgnorth.*—*Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, X, p. 139; 1837 Rep., p. 436; H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 424.

*Ludlow.*—*Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, VIII, p. 203; and for Register of Palmer's Guild, *ibid.*, VII, p. 81; see also "Ludlow Charters," and *Notes and Queries*, Ser. 11, V, p. 73, for list of records printed; 1902 Rep., p. 64; 1919 Rep., p. 101; and Clive, "Ludlow Documents".

*Oswestry.*—*Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, II-VII (*passim*); "Bygones," IV (*passim*); H.M.C. Rep., p. 18; *Notes and Queries*, Ser. 11; 1902 Rep., p. 66.

<sup>1</sup> For the doubtful "borough" of Clun, see Thos. Salt, "Concise Account of Documents relating to Clun"; *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, XI, p. 244; and for Newport, *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, X, p. 96; 1880 Rep., p. 78; and 1902 Rep., Appx. (XIII), p. 276. For charters, etc., of the ancient Town of Ellesmere, see "Salopian Shreds and Patches," Vol. IX; and of Ruyton, *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Ser. 2, III, p. 237.



*Shrewsbury*.—See “Calendar of Borough Records,” and H.M.C. 15th Rep., Appx. (X), p. 1; *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Ser. 2, X, pp. 145, 157 (and *passim*); *Shr. N.S., Notes and Queries*, III, pp. 92, 98; 1902 Rep., p. 76; 1919 Rep. p. 101.

*Wenlock*.—*Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, X, p. 134; and Ser. 2, VI, p. 223; H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 420; 1837 Rep., p. 507; “Salopian Ill. Monthly Journal,” V.

**Parish Records.**—See “Shropshire Parish Documents,” by R. Clease and E. C. Peele, and publications of Shropshire Parish Register Soc., Lists and Indexes, 1538-1812. See also *Antiquary*, XXXIX, p. 6; and Bernau, “Genealogical Directory,” 2nd Suppl., p. xxvi, for lists of Shropshire Registers. Many early Churchwardens’ Accounts are extant (see Cox, “Parish Registers,” and “Churchwardens’ Accounts” (*passim*), but mainly unpublished, *cf.* Camden O.S. 93 (Ludlow).

**Ecclesiastical Records.**—See under, Shrewsbury (*supra*), also Hereford and Lichfield; and see 1919 Rep., p. 31. Nonconformist Records. The Catholic Registers of Newport, 1785-1845, have been printed by *Catholic Rec. Soc.*, Vol. XIII, Misc. VIII. There were several Nonconformist meeting houses whose registers have survived, and a number have been edited for the Shropshire Parish Register Soc., by Rev. G. E. Evans, *cf.* Returns of Dissenting Meeting Houses, 1836, and Report of Commissioners on Non-Parochial Registers, 1841.

**Public Institutions.**—Public Library and Museum, Shrewsbury, in the old Grammar School Buildings, contains MSS., Deeds, etc., belonging to Shropshire Arch. Soc. (see *Trans.*, IX, p. 171). “Old Shropshire Deeds”; and “Catalogue,” by H. T. Beddowes, and “Calendar of MSS.,” by W. D. Fletcher; see also David Murray, “Museums,” III, p. 174; *Art Journ.*, XXIII, p. 22; and *Antiquary*, XXV, p. 245; and XXVI, p. 16 (Sir J. Ward). For the Museum, Ludlow, see *Antiquary*, XXVI, p. 96 (Sir J. Ward). The MSS. of Shrewsbury School have been described by Stanley Leighton. See also 1902 Rep., Appx., p. 250; *Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Ser. 2, IX, p. 285; and H.M.C. 15th Rep., Appx. (X), p. 75; 1919 Rep. Appx., p. 101.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 353. For Sundorne Deeds, see *Shr. Notes and Queries*, N.S. IV, p. 72, etc. Many other collections are described in *Shr. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (*passim*).

## SOMERSET.

Much has been done by the Somerset Archæological Society for the description of local records. For those formerly preserved in the smaller boroughs (*e.g.* Crewkerne, Ilminster, Minehead, Taunton, Watchett), see 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 49 *sq.*

**Public Records.**

(a) *District Probate Registries* at Wells and Taunton.—For East and West Somerset respectively, see “Somerset Wills,” ed. F. Brown; and Somerset Record Soc., Vols. 19 and 21, and “Marriage Licences” (ed. W. P. W. Phillimore).

(b) *Custom House Records* (Bridgwater) from 1736.—See 1914 Rep., p. 243.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Commissions of Sewers (Wells), see 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 101; for Drainage Authorities under Somerset Drainage Act (1877), see “Local Taxation Returns,” Part VI, pp. 46-47; for Bridge and Market Commissioners, see *ibid.*, pp. 114 and 118. There are still many records of Turnpike Trusts outstanding (see 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85, and Webb, *op. cit.*); for Town Trusts, see below, under Towns.

**County Records** (Taunton) from 1650.—(MS. List), see 1800 Rep., p. 286; 1902 Rep., p. 22; 1919 Rep., p. 5 *sq.*; H.M.C. 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 333; 7th Rep., Appx., p. 593; Somerset Record Soc., Vol. 28; *Som. and Dors. Notes and Queries*, XI, p. 101.

**Town Records.**

*Axbridge* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 1089; 1837 Rep., p. 429; 1880 Rep., p. 13; H.M.C. 3rd Rep., p. 300.

*Bath* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1109; 1919 Rep., p. 22; *Som. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, XV (ii), p. 67; King and Watts, “Municipal Records of Bath”.

*Bridgwater* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 461; 1837 Rep., p. 437; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 99; *ibid.*, 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 310.

*Chard* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1235; 1837 Rep., p. 441.

*Glastonbury* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1281; 1919 Rep., p. 24; *Som. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, 39, p. 38; 1902 Rep., pp. 58, 172; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 102.

*Ilchester* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 1287; 1880 Rep., p. 49; 1902 Rep., p. 104.

*Langport* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 1293; 1880 Rep., p. 54; 1902 Rep., p. 104.

*Taunton* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 178; *Som. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (1898), p. 14. Many Town Records are included with those of the Lord of the Manor at Taunton Castle.

*Wells* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 1363; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 106; *ibid.*, 3rd Rep., p. 350; *Som. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (1871).

*Yeovil* (T.T.).—1902 Rep., p. 182. The records were burnt in 1853.

**Parish Records.**—For the state of the existing Parish Records, see 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; Report to Records Committee of Convocation (1914), by Chancellor Holmes; A. L. Humphreys, “Somersetshire Parishes”;

F. Hancock, "Hist. of Minehead"; H.M.C. 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 329 (Cheddar); and *Som. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, XVIII, p. 15 (Stoke Courcy). Somerset registers have been published by the Index Society.

**Church Records.**

- (a) *Bishopric Records*.—See 1800 Rep., p. 310; 1902 Rep., p. 104; 1919 Rep., p. 29; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 92; and the Report by Chancellor Holmes (*supra*). Registers have been printed by the Somerset Record Society; "Marriage Licences" by W. P. W. Phillimore. Some of the Court Rolls and Ministers' Accounts are in the Public Record Office; others are at the Ecclesiastical Commn. and Lambeth Palace Library.
- (b) *Chapter Records*.—See 1800 Rep., p. 341; 1902 Rep., p. 110; 1919 Rep., p. 30; H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 93; 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 351; 10th Rep., Appx., p. 28; 17th Rep., Appx., p. 97; Report (Holmes) to Convocation (1914); and by F. H. Dickinson (Indexes) in 1896. Court Rolls and Ministers' Accounts (*ut supra*). For the records of the College of Vicars Choral (Wells), see H.M.C. 3rd Rep., Appx., p. 364; and 1902 Rep., p. 110.
- (c) *Archdeaconry Records*.—Those for Wells and Taunton are said to be wanting, but some of the latter are with the Manorial Records of Taunton Deane in Taunton Castle (1919 Rep., (III), p. 49).

**Public Institutions, etc.**—MSS. are preserved in the Public Libraries or Literary Institutions at Bath, Weston, and Taunton, and Museums at Glastonbury and Taunton. For the records of Bishop Bubwith's Alms-houses at Wells, see 1902 Rep., p. 110; and H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 638. For the important collection of the Somerset Archæological Society at Taunton Castle, see the Society's *Transactions*; 1902 Rep., p. 70; and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 49; for Somerset Schools, see V.C.H., II, pp. 435 *sq.*; and for Charities, *ibid.*, pp. 152 *sq.*; for the Archives of Downside College, see "Downside Review," Ser. I (1880-1906); and *Som. and Dors. Notes and Queries*, VII, pp. 284-287.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 353, A. L. Humphreys, *op. cit.*; and Sir H. Maxwell Lyte, "Dunster and its Lords" (Luttrell MSS.).

STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Local Records of this county have been on the whole inadequately described, and the most valuable are those of the ancient ecclesiastical city of Lichfield. Little

is known of the Borough Records of Stafford, and there is no recent account of the County collection. Staffordshire possesses the earliest Parish Register in the country, that of Tipton, 1513.

**Public Records.**<sup>1</sup>—District Probate Registry (Lichfield), *see* Lichfield Wills, 1516-1790; Brit. Rec. Soc., Index Library; Marshall, *op. cit.*, pp. 31-32.

**Statutory Authorities.**—For Mine Drainage and other Drainage Boards, *see* 1913-14 Local Taxation Returns; for records of Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records.**—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 287; 1837 Rep., p. 246; 1919 Rep., p. 6 *sq.*

**Town Records**<sup>2</sup> (T.C. in all cases).

*Burton-on-Trent.*—*See* 1919 Rep., p. 23; *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, VII, p. 421; and *Burton Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, II, p. 90.

*Lichfield.*—*See* 1919 Rep., p. 25; 1902 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 74; Webb, *op. cit.* (*passim*).

*Newcastle-under-Lyme.*—1837 Rep., p. 471; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

*Stafford.*—1919 Rep., p. 27; 1835 Rep., 2025.

*Tamworth.*—1835 Rep., p. 2039.

*Walsall.*—*See* R. Sims, "Cat. of Deeds and Documents of Walsall"; 1902 Rep., Appx., p. 40; 1919 Rep., p. 27.

*Wolverhampton.*—1919 Rep., p. 28.

**Parish Records.**—*See* Publications of Staffs. Parish Reg. Soc. and F. W. Willmore, "Records of Rushall". A few registers are printed by Nottingham Parish Reg. Soc. "Staffordshire Incumbents and Parochial Records" (Salt Soc.), makes little use of local records. Records of Burton are described in *Burton Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, III, p. 261; *cf.* Salt Soc. Index in Vol. for 1911.

**Ecclesiastical Records.**

*Bishops' Records* (Lichfield).—One early Bishops' Register and a "Sede Vacante" Register are printed by Salt Soc., Vol. VIII, N.S., p. 1; Vol. X, Part II, p. 1; *see* 1800 Rep., p. 313; 1919 Rep., p. 29; 1902 Rep., p. 104.

<sup>1</sup> For descriptions of Needwood, Duffield, Cannock Chase, and Kinever Forests and their records, *see* Shaw's "Staffordshire," and O. Moseley, "Tamworth".

<sup>2</sup> Burton should have records of Lighting and Paving Commissioners from 1779, and Improvement Commissioners, 1853; Longton and Burslem had Lighting Commissioners from 1839. The Borough of Stoke-on-Trent had a Local Board, and was incorporated, 1874; Wolverhampton in 1848. Other towns are recent incorporations.

*Dean and Chapter.*—See Catalogue and List of Records, by J. C. Cox, Salt Soc., Vol. VI, Part II ; 1800 Rep., p. 336 ; 1919 Rep., p. 30.

*Archdeaconry Records* (Stafford).—1919 Rep., p. 31.

*Nonconformist Records.*—No Catholic Registers for the county appear to have been published. The collection at Oscott College has been described in H.M.C. 1st Rep., Appx., p. 89 ; and 2nd Rep., Appx., p. 125.

**Institutions, etc.**—For Library of Salt Soc., Stafford, see W. S. Brough, "Memorials of Old Staffordshire" (1909). There are a number of early endowed schools in the county.

**Private Collections.**—Seven private collections are dealt with by the Hist. MSS. Com. (18th Rep., p. 353). Others are described and portions printed in publications of Salt Soc., e.g. Blithfield Deeds, Vol. XI, N.S., p. 1 ; and ancient deeds at Okeover, *ibid.*, VII, N.S., p. 4 ; see also I. H. Jeayes, *Gresley Charters*, and Salt Soc., Vol. XVI, p. 227 ; cf. Salt Soc. Indexes, Vol. I, 1911.

## SUFFOLK.

These Local Records possess several distinctive features. Commissioners of Sewers are to be found here, but the records of departmental and statutory bodies are of slight interest ; even the Ipswich customs-house records are of modern date. There are two administrative divisions and two collections of County Records, besides independent Quarter Sessions for the three great Liberties, the records of which are an unknown quantity. There are several decayed boroughs whose records have suffered grievous losses.<sup>1</sup> The bishopric (Ipswich and Bury) is modern, but there are two archdeaconries, with probate registries. Local antiquaries have taken much interest in the public and private collections for this county.

### Public Records.

*District Probate Registry.*—(a) Bury St. Edmunds (West Suffolk), containing records of the archdeaconry Court of Sudbury and commissary Court of Bury St. Edmunds.

(b) Ipswich (East Suffolk and North Essex), containing records of the archdeaconry Court of Suffolk, see Marshall, *op. cit.*, p. 49.

<sup>1</sup> See H.M.C. Var. Coll., IV and VII, and the 1837 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Customs House* at Ipswich (including Aldborough and Woodbridge).—See 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 246.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Commissions of Sewers and Harbour, etc., and other Authorities, see *Local Taxation Returns, loc. cit.*; and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds).—See 1800 Rep., p. 288; 1837 Rep., p. 246; and 1902 Rep. p. 24; see also *Suffolk Inst. Arch. Proc.*, XV, p. 144; 1919 Rep., p. 6 sq.

#### **Town Records.**

*Aldburgh* (T.C.).—See 1835 Rep., IV, p. 2063; 1880 Rep., Appx. pp. 3-6; H.M.C. 17th Rep., pp. 124, 125; Rep. on Var. Coll., IV, p. 279.

*Beccles* (T.C.).—See 1835 Rep., p. 2127; 1837 Rep., p. 430; H.M.C. Var. Coll., VII, p. 70.

*Bury St. Edmunds* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2169; 1902 Rep., pp. 48-49; H.M.C. 14th Rep., p. 41; and Appx. (VIII), p. 121.

*Dunwich* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 2217; 1837 Rep., p. 445; 1880 Rep., p. 32; 1902 Rep., p. 227; H.M.C. Var. Coll., VII, p. 80.

*Eye* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2227; 1902 Rep., p. 56; 1919 Rep., p. 24; H.M.C. 10th Rep., p. 26; and Appx. (IV), p. 513.

*Ipswich* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2291; 1902 Rep., p. 48; H.M.C. 14th Rep., p. 41; and Appx. (VIII), p. 121.

*Orford* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., p. 2507; 1880 Rep., pp. 88-89; 1902 Rep., p. 227; H.M.C. 17th Rep., pp. 123-124; and Var. Coll., IV, p. 255.

*Southwold* (T.C.).—Catalogue (1871); 1835 Rep., p. 2513; 1837 Rep., p. 495; 1902 Rep., p. 70; 1919 Rep., p. 27; H.M.C. Var. Coll., VII, p. 114.

*Sudbury* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 70; 1919 Rep., p. 27; *Bury and West Suffolk Arch. Inst. Proc.*, I, p. 199; *Suffolk Inst. of Arch. Proc.*, XIII, p. 259.

**Parish Records.**—See H.M.C. 5th Rep., Appx., p. 593 (Mendlesham), and 10th Rep., Appx., pp. 463-466 (Yaxley). The Church Registers of several parishes are published in "Suffolk Green Books," also by the Parish Registers Society. See also 1902 Rep., Appx., p. 124, and the proceedings of the Local Societies.

#### **Church Records.**

(a) *Cathedral Records.*—See Norwich.

(b) *Archdeaconry Records.*<sup>1</sup>—(1) Suffolk Archdeaconry Registry (Ipswich), see 1902 Rep., p. 124. (2) Sudbury Archdeaconry Records (Bury St. Edmunds), see *Suffolk Inst. of Arch. Proc.*, XI, p. 252.

<sup>1</sup> These archdeaconries had ordinary jurisdiction independent of the bishop, and separate transcripts of Parish Registers.

**Public Institutions** (Ipswich).—County Museum and Free Library (Printed Catalogue). For the ancient schools in this county, *see* V.C.H., “Suffolk” (Vol. II), and “Suffolk Green Books” (No. 13).

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 353. Several collections are noted in the 1902 Rep. (Appx., p. 124), and others have been described or investigated by local antiquaries. Important Manorial Records should be preserved in the custody of the stewards of the several Liberties. Some Lieutenancy Papers have been described (H.M.C. 13th Rep., Appx. (IV)).

## SURREY.

There are comparatively few collections of records within the present administrative area; practically no Branch repositories of Public Records<sup>1</sup> nor Statutory Authorities<sup>2</sup> and Trusts.<sup>3</sup> Part of the records of the Surrey Quarter Sessions, 1657-1888, are among the London (County Sessions) Records at Clerkenwell. Town Records appear to be scanty, and very little printed information is available. Several are of recent incorporation, while others of ancient foundation have been disfranchised, and their records dispersed. Among Parish Records mention may be made of a notable collection at Abinger. No collection of Ecclesiastical Records exists except pastoral records at Farnham. With the exception of a few parishes, forming the deanery of Croydon (peculiar of Canterbury), Surrey, from early times, formed part of the Diocese of Winchester. Some records of the Commissary Court for parts of Surrey are in the Cathedral Church, Southwark; others in the Archidiaconal Registry at Knightrider Street, and the Principal Probate Registry (*see* 1914 Rep., p. 199, and 1919 Rep., p. 93). The Archdeaconry Records, described in 1902

<sup>1</sup> For Regimental Records and those of military colleges, *see* 1914 Rep., p. 215; for Board of Agriculture (Kew), *ibid.*, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> Records of Old Surrey and Kent Sewer Commission are in the custody of the London County Council, and have been published in part.

<sup>3</sup> For Turnpike Trusts, *see* S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, and 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

Rep., p. 118, appear to be parochial only. The recently formed Archdeaconry of Kingston is in the Diocese of Southwark.

For general information about the county and its records in addition to V.C.H. and *Surrey Archæological Collections*, see "Schedule of Antiquities in the County of Surrey," by P. M. Johnston, 1913. The Minet Public Library at Camberwell contains valuable records on Surrey topography.

**County Records** (Kingston-on-Thames).—See 1902 Rep., p. 24; 1919 Rep., p. 6 *sq.*; S. and B. Webb, "Parish and County" (*passim*).

**Town Records.**<sup>1</sup>—

*Blechingley* (P.C.).—V.C.H., "Surrey," IV, p. 255.

*Farnham* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 731; 1837 Rep., p. 447; 1919 Rep., p. 24; V.C.H., "Surrey," II, p. 585. "Farnham and its Borough," R. N. Milford (1859).

*Gatton*.—V.C.H., "Surrey," III, p. 196.

*Godalming* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 735; 1837 Rep., p. 453; 1902 Rep., p. 58; 1919 Rep., p. 24; V.C.H., "Surrey," III, p. 29.

*Guildford* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., p. 2871; 1837 Rep., p. 455; *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, IX, p. 317; "History and Antiquities of Guildford" (1801).

*Haslemere*.—V.C.H., "Surrey," III, p. 45; "Bygone Haslemere," ed. E. W. Swanton and P. Woods (1914).

*Kingston-on-Thames* (T.C.).—H.M.C. 3rd Rep., p. 331.

*Reigate* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 66; V.C.H., "Surrey," III, p. 233.

**Parish Records.**—For parochial registers in addition to the usual authorities, see *Surrey Arch. Coll.* (*passim*), and Publications of Surrey Parish Register Society. References to Vestry Minutes of Mitcham and Richmond are given in Webb, "English Local Government". See also Vestry Minute Book, 1578-1652, ed. J. G. Anderson, 1914, for reference to Meetings and Churchwardens' Accounts, Cox, *op. cit.*

**Church Records.**—See above, Introduction; also "List of Parish Registers," F. A. Crisp, p. 46, and "Some Records of the Early Friends in Surrey and Sussex," T. W. Marsh (1886), *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XIV, p. 217; 1919 Rep., II, p. 29; III, pp. 37, 38.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—For MS. contents of Library of Surrey Archæological Society, see *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, X, p. 204; XXIV, p. 177;

<sup>1</sup> The following are of recent incorporation: Croydon, 1883 (see V.C.H., "Surrey," IV, p. 217); Richmond, 1890; Wimbledon, 1905.



and XXVI, p. 151. For Schools, see V.C.H., "Surrey," II, p. 155, and *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, X, p. 108 (Royal Grammar School, Guildford), Vol. XXVI, p. 81. For Hospitals, see V.C.H., *ibid.*, p. 118; 1902 Rep., pp. 24, 32, and *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, IX, p. 353, XXX, p. 38. There are MSS. in Croydon Public Library.

**Private Collections.**—See H.M.C. 17th Rep., V.C.H. (*passim*); *Home Co. Mag.*, Vol. XIV; H. C. H. Lambert, "History of Banstead" (1912), and *Surrey Arch. Coll.* (*passim*); A. L. Humphreys *op. cit.*

## SUSSEX.

The various types of local records are well represented in this county, and it has also some records relating to the Cinque Ports.<sup>1</sup> In several instances the records are no longer in the same repository as they were when reported on by the 1800 and 1837 Commissions,<sup>2</sup> and their position is not yet determined. For Town Records, too, there is not much information available. The Parish Records have been well listed in *Sussex Arch. Coll.* The *Record Series*, issued by the same society, is also an invaluable source of information.

### Public Records.

#### (a) District Probate Registries.

(1) *Chichester*.—See "Chichester Wills," 1482-1800, Vol. 27 of B.R.S., *Index Library Series*.

(2) *Lewes*.—See 1837 Rep., p. 279; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vol. 32, p. 123, and B.R.S., *Index Library Series*, Vol. 17.

(b) There were Poor Law Incorporations at Arundel and Chichester.

(c) *Customs Records*.—For those at Rye, Newhaven, Shoreham, and Littlehampton, see 1914 Rep., p. 243.

(d) For Prisons, see *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 24 (*sub Notes and Queries*).

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Commissions of Sewers, see 1914 Rep., pp. 98-100. For Turnpike Trusts and Acts, see 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 15, 16, 17 and 18 (*sub Topographica Sussexiana*), and Webb, "King's Highway". For Local Harbour Authorities, see "Local Taxation Returns," Part VI (1913-14).

<sup>1</sup> The wills of the Liberty are preserved at the District Probate Registry, Lewes. For other records, see under "Kent".

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.* the County and Archdeaconry Records.

**County Records** at Lewes.—1800 Rep., p. 290 ; 1837 Rep., p. 247 ; 1902 Rep., p. 24 ; 1919 Rep., p. 91 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 40, 57, and (*passim*), and S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 427, *n.* and (*passim*).

**Town Records.**<sup>1</sup>

*Arundel*.—1835 Rep., II, p. 667 ; 1902 Rep., p. 46.<sup>2</sup>

*Chichester* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 715 ; 1902 Rep., p. 50 ; 1919 Rep., p. 23.

*East Grinstead*.—1837 Rep., p. 454.

*Hastings* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 997 ; 1837 Rep., p. 455 ; 1902 Rep., p. 44 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24 ; H.M.C. 13th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 354 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 14, p. 65.

*Horsham*.—1837 Rep., p. 458.

*Lewes* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 62 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 21, p. 90.

*Midhurst* (T.T.).—1880 Rep., p. 145.

*Pevensy* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1017 ; 1880 Rep., p. 91 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 45, p. 149. The records, at the present time, are kept in the Parish Church in a cabinet.

*Rye* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1031 ; H.M.C. 5th Rep., p. 488, and 13th Rep., Appx. (IV), p. 1 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 39, p. 1.

*Seaford* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1059 ; 1880 Rep., p. 109 ; 1919 Rep., p. 105 ; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 7, p. 73 and 17, p. 141.

*Winchelsea* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1073 ; 1880 Rep., p. 122 ; W. D. Cooper, "History of Winchelsea" (1850).

**Parish Records.**—In addition to the general authorities, *see* *Sussex Arch. Coll.* (*passim*).

**Church Records.**

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Chichester).—1800 Rep., p. 323 ; H.M.C. Var. Coll., I, p. 177 ; *Sussex Rec. Soc.*, Vols. 4, 8, and 11.

(b) *Chapter Records*.—1800 Rep., p. 333 ; H.M.C. Var. Coll., I, p. 187.

(c) *Archdeaconry Records* (Lewes).—*See* 1837 Rep., p. 279 ; 1919 Rep., p. 92, and *Sussex Rec. Soc.* (*passim*).

(d) *Nonconformist Bodies*.—*See* *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 16, p. 657, and 55, p. 74, and T. W. Marsh, *op. cit.*, for Quaker Records ; *see also* *Catholic Rec. Soc.*, Vols. 1, 2, 6, and 7.

**Public Institutions.**—For Hastings Museum, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 44. For Collection of Sussex Archæological Society at the Castle, Lewes, *see*

<sup>1</sup> The following are recent incorporations : Bexhill, 1902 ; Brighton, 1854 ; but *see* 1902 Rep., p. 42, for manorial and other records of interest ; Eastbourne, 1838 ; Hove, 1898 ; Worthing, 1890.

<sup>2</sup> An interesting description of these records was published by Mr. Garraway Rice in the "West Sussex Gazette" for 12th February, 1914.

*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 27, 37, 39, and (*passim*), and for Chichester Museum, *ibid.*, 8, p. 287. For the history of Charities and Schools, see V.C.H., "Sussex," II, pp. 397 *et seq.* For Henry Smith's Charities, see *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 22, p. 30, and E. F. Row, "History of Midhurst Grammar School" (1913). For Hospitals, etc., in addition to V.C.H., "Sussex," II, p. 97, see also *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.*, XI, p. 115; *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vols. 24, p. 41, 30, p. 148, 51, p. 37, and (*passim*); also F. W. Hill, "Sackville College," ch. ix (1913). There are Town Trusts at Midhurst, Pevensey, and Seaford.

**Private Collections.**—For a list of these, see H.M.C. 18th Rep.; *Sussex Arch. Coll.* (*passim*); A. L. Humphreys *op. cit.*; G. W. E. Loder, "Account of Wakehurst Place" (1907).

### WARWICKSHIRE.

In this county, with a population and an important literary interest always increasing—apart from its traditions—repositories for local records are somewhat scattered; owing also to ecclesiastical divisions, the Diocesan and Probate Registries lie outside its borders. The County Records are not of early date, while the Manorial Records are little known.<sup>1</sup> Among towns, Coventry and Stratford possess collections of special interest; but the early records of Birmingham's local government must be sought in the minutes of a parochial vestry.<sup>2</sup> Many collections of documents in private hands have been described. Among public institutions, the Birmingham Public Library and Birthplace at Stratford contain local material indispensable for the student, and the Parish Records are at least of average value.<sup>3</sup>

**Public Records.**—These are chiefly at Birmingham. For the District Probate Registry, see Marshall, *op. cit.*, p. 31.<sup>4</sup>

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For records of Coventry and

<sup>1</sup> F. G. Davenport, "Manorial Society Monographs," No. 2, p. 24. The Warwick Castle collection has many Manorial Records.

<sup>2</sup> See below.

<sup>3</sup> Hudson, "History of a Warwickshire Parish" (Lapworth). Those of Knowle ("Records of Knowle," by T. W. Downing) chiefly represent later periods.

<sup>4</sup> See Worcester and Lichfield. For Stratford Wills, see "Statement of the MSS. at Shakespeare's Birthplace," p. 6.

Birmingham Street Commissioners and Coventry Poor Law Records, *see* Webb, "English Local Govt.," Part II, pp. 157 and 434-436. For Turnpike Trusts, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 85.

**County Records** (County Hall, Warwick).—Dating from 1612. *See* 1800 Rep., p. 291 ; 1837 Rep., p. 248 ; 1902 Rep., pp. 24-25 ; 1919 Rep., pp. 6 *sq.*, 99 ; (MS. Index).

**Town Records.**

*Warwick* (T.C.).—MS. Index. Briefly described in the 1902 Rep., p. 72 ; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.* ; *Brit. Arch. Journ.*, XVI, Part II, pp. 79-85, and XVIII, pp. 265-276 ; *Warw. Field Club*, 1896, pp. 1-14.

*Coventry* (T.C.).—Catalogue (J. C. Jeaffreson) ; 1902 Rep., p. 33 ; 1919 Rep., p. 23 ; H.M.C., 1st Rep. Appx., p. 100 ; 15th Rep., Appx., p. 101 ; *Proc. Warw. Field Club*, 1896 ; *Trans. Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc.*, XXXVII, p. 188 ; *Brit. Arch. Journ.*, XVI, Part II, p. 65 ; *Trans. Birmingham and Midl. Institute*, XXV, p. 46 ; "Coventry Leet Book" (E.E.T.S.), and the works on Coventry, by M. Dormer Harris (*passim*).

*Stratford-on-Avon*.<sup>1</sup>—*See* 1919 Rep., p. 99 ; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx., pp. 289-293 : "Memorials of Old Warwick," pp. 258-266 ; *Notes and Queries*, Ser. VIII, Vol. II, pp. 336-337.

*Birmingham* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 30 ; 1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Sutton Coldfield* (T.C.).—1880 Rep., p. 112 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27, and *Midland Record Soc. Trans.*, Vol. III, pp. 3-9 (1899).

**Parish Records.**—The Registers of Stratford-on-Avon, and many others, have been printed.<sup>2</sup> Among Churchwardens' Accounts, and other Records, may be mentioned those of Solihull (1524), and St. Nicholas, Warwick (1549)<sup>3</sup> Holy Trinity, Coventry (1462),<sup>4</sup> including many charters,<sup>5</sup> and the Vestry Minutes of St. Martin's, Birmingham<sup>6</sup> (1795—). A report on Parish Council documents has been issued by the Warwickshire County Council (1899).

<sup>1</sup> *See* below, Public Institutions. The references to Stratford-on-Avon documents in works on Shakespeare are too numerous to mention.

<sup>2</sup> Warwick Parish Register Society and "Report on the Local Ecclesiastical Records of the Diocese of Birmingham" (1911).

<sup>3</sup> *Parish Magazine*, 1890.

<sup>4</sup> "Clerk's Book of 1549" (Wickham Legg), p. 57.

<sup>5</sup> Printed Catalogue in Vestry ; written Catalogue of the whole collection (T. Sharp) in possession of the Clerk of the Vestry. *See also Notes and Queries*, 11 S., Vol. VI, pp. 330, 341 ; 12 S., Vol., II, p. 501, and Vol III, p. 289.

<sup>6</sup> Webb, *op. cit.*, I, p. 20.

**Diocesan Records.**<sup>1</sup>—

**Public Institutions.**

*Birmingham.*—Free Library (Catalogue). Midland Institute (Transactions of the Archæological Section, *ibid.*).

*Stratford.*—Shakespeare's Birthplace. "A Statement . . . of the Manuscripts belonging to the Trustees . . . of Shakespeare's Birthplace presented to the Royal Commission" (1915). "Tercentenary Catalogue of Original Documents preserved in Stratford-on-Avon" (1916).<sup>2</sup>

*Coventry.*—Reference Library.

*Warwick.*—Museum. *See Trans. Warw. Field Club (ibid.)*.

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 354. The following may also be noted: Arbury (Newdigate MSS.), Calendar Bloom MSS.; Compton Verney (Verney MSS.), J. H. Bloom; *Proc. Birmingham and Midl. Arch. Soc.*, XXX, pp. 22-36; Warwick Castle (Greville MSS.), J. H. Bloom, *op. cit.*

WESTMORLAND.

Westmorland has few records. The Departmental and Statutory Authorities are scarcely represented; ecclesiastically, it is included in the Diocese of Carlisle. Transcripts from Borough Records, and from a number of Parish Registers and Churchwardens' Accounts, have been printed by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society. Among private collections, the Lowther, Le Fleming, and Strickland Papers are to be noted.

**Statutory Authorities.**—*See* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 86.

**County Records**<sup>3</sup> (Kendal).—MS. List (incomplete). *See* 1800 Rep., p. 291; 1837 Rep., p. 27; 1902 Rep., p. 24; 1919 Rep., p. 6 *sq.*

**Town Records.**

*Appleby* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 46; 1880 Rep., p. 10; 1919 Rep., p. 22; *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq. and Arch. Soc. Trans.* (1891); S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*

<sup>1</sup> *See* Worcester and Lichfield. There is a modern Diocese of Birmingham created, 1905. The records of the Archdeaconry of Coventry (1902 Rep., p. 128) appear to be merely parochial.

<sup>2</sup> *See* above, "Town Records".

<sup>3</sup> In 1800 the County Records were at Lowther Castle. *cf.* Lowther MSS.; H.M.C. 13th Rep., VII, and Appx., p. 32.

*Kendal* (T.C.).—1902 Rep., p. 60; H.M.C. 10th Rep., Appx., p. 299; *Cumb. and Westm., etc., Trans.* (R. E. Leach), 1892.

**Parish Records.**—See *Cumb. and Westm., etc., Trans.*, Cat. Index, Vols. I-XVI (1901); *ibid.*, N.S., Vol. V (1905).

**Public Institutions, etc.**—Westmorland had some notable grammar schools and charitable foundations. For Kendal Grammar School, see 1902 Rep., p. 46. For records of Appleby Grammar School and St. Anne's Hospital, see *ibid.* and *Cumb. and Westm., etc., Trans.*, 1885 and 1895. For records of other ancient grammar schools, see *ibid.* (*passim*), and Charity Comm. Rep.

## WILTSHIRE.

The County Records are exceptionally well preserved and described. Considerable information as to Town Records may be obtained from scattered notices in the *Wiltshire Magazine*, and in Hoare's "History" of the County or Hundreds. The Parish Records have not been systematically surveyed or printed. No Manorial Records of the Bishopric and Chapter have been deposited in the Public Record Office. Some of these may be preserved at the Ecclesiastical Commission. Besides the existing local collections, many documents must have come into the hands of antiquaries like Aubrey, Hoare, and Phillipps.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry<sup>1</sup> (Salisbury).—The records date only from 1800; for earlier records see 1914 Rep., pp. 201 *sq.*

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—Several towns in this county were under Local Boards in pursuance of the Local Government Act of 1858 (Melksham, Swindon, Trowbridge, Westbury, etc.), but it is not known if the proceedings of these Boards have been preserved. The same remark applies to the records of Courts of Request.

**County Records** (Devizes) from 1575.—See 1800 Rep., p. 292; 1902 Rep., p. 234; 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), (*passim*); H.M.C. Var. Coll., I, p. 65; *Wilts. Mag.*, XX, p. 322; XXI, p. 75; XXII, p. 1.

### Town Records.

*Calne* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1229; A. E. W. Marsh, "History".

<sup>1</sup> For the Diocese of Salisbury (County of Wilts.).

*Chippenham* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1243 ; 1837 Rep., p. 442 ; 1902 Rep., p. 50.

*Devizes* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1259 ; 1837 Rep., p. 444 ; 1902 Rep., p. 54 ; J. Waylen, "History".

*Malmesbury* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 75 ; 1880 Rep., p. 73.

*Marlborough* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 81 ; J. Waylen, "History" ; and *Wilts. Mag.*, XXXIII, p. 423.

*Salisbury* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1335 ; 1837 Rep., p. 479 ; H.M.C. 17th Rep., p. 122 ; Var. Coll., IV, pp. 191-254.

*Westbury* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1375 ; 1837 Rep., p. 508 ; 1880 Rep., p. 119 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277.

*Wilton* (T.C.).—1835 Rep., II, p. 1397 ; 1880 Rep., p. 120 ; 1902 Rep., p. 134.

*Wootton Bassett* (T.T.).—1835 Rep., I, p. 145 ; 1880 Rep., p. 131 ; 1902 Rep., p. 277.

**Parish Records.**—The records of several parishes are mentioned in the *Wilts. Mag.* and *Wilts. Notes and Queries*, besides some monographs. Several of the Churchwardens' Accounts are of early date, and are printed (*e.g.* Salisbury and Steeple Ashton).

#### Church Records.

(a) *Bishopric Records* (Salisbury).—See 1800 Rep., p. 316 ; 1919 Rep., p. 29 ; H.M.C. 17th Rep., p. 109 ; Var. Coll., IV, p. 1.

(b) *Chapter Records* (Salisbury).—See 1800 Rep., p. 341 ; 1902 Rep., p. 114 ; 1919 Rep., p. 30 ; H.M.C. 1st Rep., p. 90 ; 16th Rep., p. 102 ; Var. Coll., I, p. 338.

(c) *Archdeaconry Records* (Salisbury).—1919 Rep., p. 29.

For the records of early Nonconformist Meeting Houses in this county, see *Wilts Mag.* (*passim*), and 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 297.

**Public Institutions, etc.**—There are local collections in several public libraries and museums. Probably the most important of those connected with ancient institutions is that of St. Nicholas' Hospital, Salisbury (*Wilts. Rec. Soc.*, 1903). For the collection of the Wilts. Archaeological Society, see *Wilts. Mag.*, XXX-XXXVII.

**Private Collections.**—For the valuable MSS. at Longleat, Wilton, Savernake, and Littlecote, see H.M.C. 18th Rep., *loc. cit.* ; other local collections are mentioned in the *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* (*passim*).

## WORCESTERSHIRE.

The county has no important departmental collections and the best are those at Worcester itself, where the Diocesan and Cathedral archives date from the 13th

century and the large Municipal Collection is also early. The ancient Corporations of Bewdley, Droitwich, Evesham, and Kidderminster, have small but interesting collections. The County Records have been partially printed by the County Council and some portions by the local Historical Society; the Parish Records are good, with an exceptional number of early registers. They are dealt with by a local Parish Register Society, and a Diocesan Committee, which has issued a digest of all Registers up to 1812, with an Index to the Transcripts.

**Public Records.**—District Probate Registry (Worcester). *See* "Calendar of Wills," 1451-1652 (Worc. Hist. Soc., etc.); "Index to Worcester Wills" (Sir T. Phillipps); *cf.* 1902 Rep., Appx. (X), p. 244. Enrolments of Wills are at the Guildhall, Worcester (1558-1652). For the Military Records at Worcester, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx., p. 219.

**Statutory Authorities.**—Commission of Sewers (Avon Valley). *See* 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 100. For River and Harbour Boards, *see* Local Taxation Returns, 1913-14. For Turnpike Trust Papers, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 86.

**County Records.**—MS. Index. *See* 1800 Rep., p. 292; 1837 Rep., p. 510; 1902 Rep., p. 134; 1919 Rep., p. 6 *sq.*, 100; "Sessions Records, 1591-1643" (Worc. County Council); and H.M.C. Var. Coll., I, p. 282.

**Town Records.**<sup>1</sup>

*Worcester.*—1902 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 40; and also 1837 Rep., p. 510; Catalogue (R. Woof); 1919 Rep., p. 100.

*Bewdley.*—1902 Rep., Appx., p. 48.

*Droitwich.*—MS. Catalogue (W. de G. Birch); 1902 Rep., p. 56.

*Kidderminster.*—1902 Rep., p. 60; 1919 Rep., p. 25.

**Parish Records.**—*See* 1902 Rep., p. 128. Some Registers have been printed; *see* H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 638; *Midland Rec. Soc. Trans.*, Vol. I (*passim*); *Bromsgrove Notes and Queries*, 1908-13; and Worcester Hist. Soc. Publications

**Church Records.**

*Bishopric Records* (Worcester).—*See* 1800 Rep., p. 311; 1919 Rep., p. 100; H.M.C. 14th Rep., Appx. (VIII), p. 204.

*Chapter Records.*—1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*; H.M.C., *loc. cit.*, p. 165; Cat. of MSS.; 1800 Rep., p. 342; 1906 (J. K. Floyer).

*Archdeaconry Records.*—1902 Rep., p. 128; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

<sup>1</sup> Malvern and Bromsgrove had Local Boards; Dudley and Stourbridge are recent incorporations, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 32.



**Nonconformist Records.**—Some Catholic Registers are printed ; *cf.* *Catholic Rec. Soc.*, Vol. XVII, Misc. X, p. 2. For non-parochial Registers of Baptists and Soc. of Friends, *see* publications by A. A. Rollaston, and *Quakeriana* (Aug., 1894).

**Public Institutions.**—For Hartlebury Grammar School, *see* *Worc. Hist. Soc.*, for other early schools, *see* V.C.H.

**Private Collections.**—*See* H.M.C. 18th Rep., Appx., p. 354. For Kyre Park Charters, *see* *Worc. Hist. Soc. Publns.* and *Antiquary* (Ser. 2), XXI and XXII ; for collections at Badsey and S. Littleton, *see* *Midland Antiquary*, Vol. I.

## YORKSHIRE.

There are many minor repositories of Public Records in this county besides the York Probate Registry which has exceptionally valuable and well-arranged records, including some recently restored from Somerset House. The County Records are in three repositories. The typical Statutory Authorities are fully represented in the industrial districts. York City has a unique collection, dating from the 11th century, adequately listed. The Town Records generally are important, but those of a manorial type are in private hands. A number of Parish Records are printed. The Churchwardens' Accounts of Hedon (from 1349—unpublished) are, with one exception (Bath), the oldest known to us. There is one Registry, at York, for the York Province and Diocese, containing an extensive series of Provincial, Diocesan, and Archidiaconal Records incompletely catalogued. The valuable archives of the Dean and Chapter have recently been listed. These, and the MSS. in Ripon Cathedral Treasury, are surveyed by the Surtees Society.

The collections of Borough Records, Local Deeds, and MSS. in the Public Libraries of Sheffield, Bradford, etc., are to be noted.

Most of the important private collections are surveyed by the H.M.C. and the local historical societies, but there are muniment rooms known to contain very early

Manorial Records which have hitherto remained closed to inspection.

**Public Records.**

(a) *District Probate Registry*<sup>1</sup> (York).—1914 Rep., p. 293 ; Surtees Society (*passim*).

(b) *Custom House Records*.—See 1914 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 245.

**Statutory Authorities, etc.**—For Commissioners of Sewers and Drainage Boards, Harbours, etc. (East and West Riding), see "Local Taxation Returns," 1913-14, Part VI, etc. ; *Yorks Arch. and Topogr. Assoc.*, VII, p. 194. For Turnpike Trusts, see 1919 Rep., Appx. (III), p. 86. For the Statutory Registries of Deeds in each Riding, see below, under County Records.

**County Records**<sup>2</sup> (North, East, and West Ridings at Northallerton, Beverley, and Hull respectively).—1800 Rep., pp. 284-294, and 327-330 ; 1837 Rep., pp. 282-284 ; 1902 Rep., p. 26 ; 1919 Rep., p. 21 ; H.M.C. 9th Rep., Appx., pp. 324 *sq.* ; Publications of North Riding Rec. Soc. ; *Yorks Arch. and Topogr. Assoc.*, VIII, p. 163 ; MS. Indexes.

**Town Records.**<sup>3</sup>

*Barnsley*.—1902 Rep., p. 46.

*Beverley*.—1837 Rep., p. 430 ; H.M.C. 16th Rep., Appx., p. 91 ; Selden Soc. Publ., No. 54, "Beverlac" (Poulson).

*Bradford*.—1919 Rep., p. 22.

*Brighouse*.—1902 Rep., p. 48.

*Dewsbury*.—*ibid.*, p. 54.

*Doncaster*.—*ibid.*, p. 54 ; Calendar (W. J. Hardy).

*Halifax*.—*ibid.*, p. 34.

*Huddersfield*.—*ibid.*, p. 34.

*Hedon*.—See "Holderness" (Poulson) ; "History" (Boyle) ; *ibid.*, Park.

*Hull* (Kingston-on-Hull).—1835 Rep., p. 1545 ; Vol. III, p. 156 ; 1902 Rep., p. 34 ; 1919 Rep., p. 24 ; Lambert, "Two Thousand Years of Gild Life" ; Wildridge, "Hull Letters".

<sup>1</sup> For Yorks wills at Somerset House, see 1914 Rep., p. 199, and 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.* ; at Lancaster, 1800 Rep., p. 318 ; *cf.* Testamentary Records in custody of York Dean and Chapter ; 1902 Rep., p. 223 ; at Durham and in Richmond Archdeaconry, 1914 Rep., p. 294. See also "Testamenta Leodensia," *Thoresby Soc. Miscell.*, 1891-95.

<sup>2</sup> Including, besides the Quarter Sessions and County Council Records, the Statutory Registries of Deeds in each Riding. Records of Northern Circuit transferred to P.R.O. from York. 1800 Rep., p. 240 ; 1837 Rep., p. 213 ; S.S. Publ., 1881 ; P.R.O., *Rules and Schedules*, pp. 247 *sq.*

<sup>3</sup> For Bridlington, see 1880 Rep., p. 142.

*Knaresborough*.—1837 Rep., p. 460.

*Leeds*.—1837 Rep., p. 462 ; “History” (Wardell).

*Northallerton*.—“Municipal Hist.” (Gross.), p. 348.

*Pontefract*.—1837 Rep., p. 475 ; H.M.C. 8th Rep., Appx., p. 269 ;  
*Notes and Queries*, II Series, Vol. V, p. 478 ; Pontefract “Book  
of Entries” (Holmes).

*Richmond*.—1902 Rep., p. 68 ; MS. List.

*Ripon*.—1902 Rep., p. 68 ; *cf.* *The Antiquary*, Vol. XXXII.

*Scarborough*.—1837 Rep., p. 481 ; 1919 Rep., p. 26 ; Catalogue  
(1893).

*Sheffield*.—Catalogue, 1913 (Hall) ; “Burgery Records” (Leader) ;  
“Hallamshire” (Hunter) ; *Hunter Arch. Soc. Trans.*, Vol I.

*Todmorden*.—1902 Rep., p. 70 ; *Halifax Antiquarian Soc. Papers*,  
1908.

*Wakefield*.—1902 Rep., p. 72 ; 1919 Rep., p. 27 .

*York*.<sup>1</sup>—1902 Rep., p. 42 ; Catalogue (Giles), 1912 ; H.M.C. 1st  
Rep., Appx., p. 108 ; 1919 Rep., p. 107 ; S.S. (*passim*) ; *The  
Antiquary* (*passim*) ; Davies, “Municipal Records”. For  
Merchant Adventurers, *see* 1912 Rep., Evidence (M. Sellers).

**Parish Records.**—The Parish Records are surveyed by local Societies.  
*See also* “Collectio Rerum Ecclesiarum de Diocesi Eboracensi” (York and  
Ripon), (Lawton) ; “Early Parish Registers of Rotherham” (White).  
For Ecclesfield Parish Registers and Churchwardens’ Accounts, *see* Gatty  
and Guest’s “Historic Notices” ; for Churchwardens’ and Constables’  
Accounts in Wakefield Burgh Collection, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 26.

**Church Records.**

*York*.<sup>2</sup>

*Bishopric Records* (York).—York Registry for the province and  
diocese, 1902 Rep., p. 223 ; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.* ; H.M.C. 1st  
Rep., Appx., p. 97 ; S.S. (*passim*).

*Cathedral Records* (York).—1800 Rep., p. 332 ; 1837 Rep.,  
p. 286 ; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.* ; H.M.C. 1st Rep., *loc. cit.* ; S.S.,  
Vol. 49 ; MS. Index (A. Gibbons).

<sup>1</sup> For MSS. of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, *see* H.M.C. 1st  
Rep., Appx., p. 110. For the Eastland “Acts and Ordinances,” *see*  
Camden 3rd Ser. XI.

<sup>2</sup> For the ancient jurisdiction of the Archbishopric at Southwell and  
elsewhere, *see* 1914 Rep., Appx., II, p. 14 ; for the Collegiate Church  
at Middleham, *see* 1919 Rep., Appx. (II), p. 72 *n.* ; Camden Soc. Publ.,  
1837 ; Beverley Minster, A. F. Leach, “Memorials” (S.S., Vol. 76).  
Metropolitan courts (York) are included here.

*cf.* Parochial survey (at Lambeth) of lands attached to Cathedral or  
Collegiate Churches in Province of York (1837 Rep., pp. 396 and 406).

*Archdeaconry Records* (York—for York, Cleveland, and East Riding).—1902 Rep., p. 118; 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

*Ripon.*<sup>1</sup>

*Cathedral Records* (Ripon—from 14th century).—1902 Rep., p. 124; S.S. (*passim*); *Yorks Arch. and Topogr. Journ.*, II, p. 371; MS. Catalogue.

*Archdeaconry Records* (Ripon).—1800 Rep., p. 317; 1902 Rep., p. 124; S.S., 1853; 1914 Rep., *loc. cit.*; 1919 Rep., *loc. cit.*

**Public Institutions, etc.**—Yorkshire is rich in charities and schools; for the latter, *see* A. F. Leach, “Early Yorkshire Schools”; for Trinity House (Hull) and other charities, *see* 1902 Rep., p. 34; and H.M.C. 18th Rep., p. 354. The Yorkshire Philosophical Society (York), and the Yorkshire Archæological Society (Leeds), have valuable collections, and some public libraries, especially Sheffield, have collected and described many local Deeds, etc.; for these *see* respective publications<sup>2</sup> and transactions of local societies.

**Private Collections.**—Many collections have been reported on by the H.M.C. (18th Rep., p. 354). The MSS. of the Duke of Leeds include a quantity of Departmental Records which belong to the series at the Public Record Office.

<sup>1</sup>Ripon has no ancient Diocesan Records. There are modern Bishoprics of Knaresborough, Richmond, Hull, Beverley, Wakefield, and Sheffield.

<sup>2</sup>*e.g.* by T. Walter Hall (Sheffield).

## APPENDIX A.

### SUMMARY LIST OF ENGLISH ARCHIVES.

#### I. CENTRAL ARCHIVES.

##### A. *Public Records.*

- (a) Records in the custody of the Master of the Rolls.<sup>1</sup>
- (b) Records transferred to the actual charge and superintendence of the Master of the Rolls.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Records not yet transferred to the above custody, etc.<sup>2</sup>

##### B. *Semi-Public Records.*<sup>3</sup>

- (a) National Institutions and Central Authorities.
- (b) Central Professional Bodies or Trading Companies.
- (c) Learned Societies and Benevolent Associations.

#### II. LOCAL ARCHIVES.

##### A. *Local Records of a Public Nature.*

- (a) Records of Courts of Justice, Registries, and Government Departments in local custody.<sup>4</sup>
- (b) Local Records in the custody of Civil Authorities.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See pp. 161 *sq.* and Introduction, and Part I (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, these theoretically include the Local Records in II A (a), below.

<sup>3</sup> See pp. 145 *sq.* and 172 *sq.* With few exceptions, these are archives centralized in London.

<sup>4</sup> Including District Registries of the Supreme Court of Justice, Palatine Courts and Local Courts with Ordinary Jurisdiction. See pp. 74 *sq.*, 93 *sq.* and Part III (*passim*).

<sup>5</sup> Including Statutory Authorities and Trusts, County Records, Town Records, and Urban, Rural, and Parish District Councils. See pp. 97-134 and Part III (*passim*).

- (c) Local Records in the custody of Ecclesiastical Authorities or Religious Bodies.<sup>1</sup>

B. *Local Records of a Private Nature.*<sup>2</sup>

- (a) Muniments of Corporate Bodies (other than II, A, (a), (b)).  
(b) Muniments or collections in the possession of Societies or Institutions (other than I, B).  
(c) Title Deeds or collections of Private Individuals.

<sup>1</sup> Including Bishops, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, Incumbents or Churchwardens, and Nonconformist Bodies. See pp. 134-144 and Part III (*passim*).

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 145-158 and Part III (*passim*).

## APPENDIX B.

### LIST OF MUNICIPAL AND REPUTED BOROUGHS.

THE Boroughs included in the following list are those mentioned in the 1796, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1880, 1902, and 1919 Reports,<sup>1</sup> and the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, together with a few towns omitted from these Reports, but mentioned in Gross's *Municipal Bibliography* or Ballard's *Borough Charters*. This list (which was made independently of the lists printed in Part II of the 1919 Report) is not, however, exhaustive or authoritative, as it is known that there are omissions and inconsistencies in the Municipal Commissioners' Reports. Moreover, some towns which have or had a quasi-municipal government and which do or may possess ancient records are omitted from this list because there is no authority for their inclusion.

At the same time the list will probably save students much trouble and may serve as the basis for a more complete compilation; but, apart from the fact that the official lists are incomplete, those published in bibliographies do not necessarily indicate the existence of records. Thus, many towns which figure in the 1837 Report and the well-known work of C. Gross, are now devoid of local archives, while others, not included here, have interesting documents.

|              |                 |                    |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Abingdon.    | Amersham.       | Aylesbury.         |
| Agmondesham. | Andover.        | Bamborough.        |
| Alcester.    | Appleby.        | Banbury.           |
| Aldeburgh.   | Arundel.        | Barnsley.          |
| Alnwick.     | Ashburton.      | Barnstaple.        |
| Alresford.   | Ashton-u.-Lyne. | Barrow-in-Furness. |
| Altrincham.  | Axbridge.       | Basingstoke.       |

<sup>1</sup> See Key to Abbreviations (p. xxxv).

|                   |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bath.             | Cambridge.        | Downton.        |
| Beccles.          | Camelford.        | Droitwich.      |
| Bedford.          | Canterbury.       | Dudley.         |
| Bedwin (Great).   | Carlisle.         | Dunmow.         |
| Bere Alston.      | Castle Rising.    | Dunstable.      |
| Berkley.          | Chagford.         | Dunwich.        |
| Berwick-on-Tweed. | Chard.            | Durham.         |
| Beverley.         | Chatham.          | Dursley.        |
| Bewdley.          | Chelmsford.       | Eastbourne.     |
| Bideford.         | Cheltenham.       | Egremont.       |
| Birkenhead.       | Chester.          | Ellesmere.      |
| Birmingham.       | Chesterfield.     | Ely.            |
| Bishop's Castle.  | Chichester.       | Evesham.        |
| Blackburn.        | Chippenham.       | Exeter.         |
| Blandford.        | Chipping Camden.  | Eye.            |
| Bletchingley.     | Chipping Norton.  | Falmouth.       |
| Bodmin.           | Chipping Sodbury. | Farnham.        |
| Bolton.           | Christ Church.    | Faversham.      |
| Bootle.           | Cirencester.      | Feversham.      |
| Boroughbridge.    | Clitheroe.        | Finsbury.       |
| Bossiney.         | Clun.             | Folkestone.     |
| Boston.           | Cockermouth.      | Fordwich.       |
| Bournemouth.      | Coggeshall.       | Fowey.          |
| Bovey Tracey.     | Colchester.       | Frodsham.       |
| Brackley.         | Colnbrook.        | Frome.          |
| Bradford.         | Congleton.        | Gainsborough.   |
| Brading.          | Corfe Castle.     | Garstang.       |
| Bradninch.        | Coventry.         | Gateshead.      |
| Bramber.          | Cricklade.        | Gatton.         |
| Bridgnorth.       | Crowcombe.        | Glastonbury.    |
| Bridgewater.      | Croydon.          | Gloucester.     |
| Bridport.         | Darlington.       | Godalming.      |
| Brighouse.        | Dartmouth.        | Godmanchester.  |
| Brightlingsea.    | Darwen.           | Grampound.      |
| Brighton.         | Daventry.         | Grantham.       |
| Bristol.          | Deal.             | Gravesend.      |
| Buckingham.       | Derby.            | Greenwich.      |
| Burford.          | Devizes.          | Grimsby.        |
| Burton-on-Trent.  | Devonport.        | Grinstead (E.). |
| Bury (Lancs).     | Dewsbury.         | Guildford.      |
| Bury St. Edmunds. | Doncaster.        | Halifax.        |
| Callington.       | Dorchester.       | Hanley.         |
| Calne.            | Dover.            | Hartlepool.     |



|                      |                       |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Harton.              | Leominster.           | New Malton.         |
| Harwich.             | Lewes.                | Newnham.            |
| Haslemere.           | Lichfield.            | Newport (Cornwall). |
| Haslingden.          | Lincoln.              | Newport (Hants).    |
| Hastings.            | Liskeard.             | Newport (Mon.).     |
| Havering atte Bower. | Liverpool.            | Newport (Salop).    |
| Hedon.               | London.               | Newtown (Lancs).    |
| Helston.             | Longton.              | Newtown (Hants).    |
| Hemel Hempstead.     | Looe (E.).            | Northallerton.      |
| Henley (in Arden).   | Looe (W.).            | Northampton.        |
| Henley (on Thames).  | Lostwithiel.          | Northleach.         |
| Hereford.            | Loughborough.         | Norwich.            |
| Hertford.            | Louth.                | Nottingham.         |
| Hexham.              | Lowestoft.            | Oakham.             |
| Heytesbury.          | Ludgershall.          | Okehampton.         |
| Heywood.             | Ludlow.               | Oldham.             |
| Higham Ferrers.      | Luton.                | Old Sarum.          |
| Hinckley.            | Lydd.                 | Orford.             |
| Hindon.              | Lydford.              | Oswestry.           |
| Honiton.             | Lyme Regis.           | Over.               |
| Horsham.             | Lymington.            | Overton.            |
| Huddersfield.        | Macclesfield.         | Oxford.             |
| Huntingdon.          | Maidenhead.           | Paignton.           |
| Hythe.               | Maidstone.            | Penryn.             |
| Ilchester.           | Maldon.               | Penzance.           |
| Ilkeston.            | Malmesbury.           | Peterborough.       |
| Ipswich.             | Manchester.           | Petersfield.        |
| Jarrow.              | Marazion.             | Pevensey.           |
| Kendal.              | Marlborough.          | Plymouth.           |
| Kidderminster.       | Melton Mowbray.       | Plympton Earle.     |
| King's Lynn.         | Melcombe, Weymouth.   | Pontefract.         |
| Kingston-on-Hull.    | Midhurst.             | Portsmouth.         |
| Kingston-on-Thames.  | Milborne Port.        | Poole.              |
| Kirkham.             | Minehead.             | Preston.            |
| Knaresborough.       | Mitchell.             | Queenborough.       |
| Knutsford.           | Modbury.              | Ravenspurne.        |
| Lambeth.             | Monmouth.             | Reading.            |
| Lancaster.           | Morpeth.              | Ramsgate.           |
| Langport.            | Nantwich.             | Reigate.            |
| Launceston.          | Newark.               | Retford (East).     |
| Leeds.               | Newbury.              | Richmond (Yorks).   |
| Leek.                | Newcastle-on-Tyne.    | Ripon.              |
| Leicester.           | Newcastle-under-Lyme. | Rochdale.           |

|                         |                    |                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rochester.              | Stockton-on-Tees.  | Wareham.             |
| Romford.                | Stoke-on-Trent.    | Warkworth.           |
| Romney (New).           | Stratford-on-Avon. | Warrington.          |
| Romney Marsh.           | Stroud.            | Warwick.             |
| Romsey.                 | Sudbury.           | Watchet.             |
| Ruyton.                 | Sunderland.        | Wednesbury.          |
| Rye.                    | Sutton Coldfield.  | Wells.               |
| Saffron Walden.         | Swaffham.          | Wendover.            |
| St. Albans.             | Tamworth.          | Wenlock.             |
| St. Germans.            | Taunton.           | Weobley.             |
| St. Helens.             | Tavistock.         | Westbury.            |
| St. Marlow.             | Tenterden.         | Westminster.         |
| St. Mawes.              | Tewkesbury.        | Whitby.              |
| St. Michael (Mitchell). | Thaxted.           | Whitchurch.          |
| Salford.                | Thetford.          | Whitehaven.          |
| Salisbury.              | Thirsk.            | Wickwar.             |
| Saltash.                | Thornaby-on-Tees.  | Wigan.               |
| Sandwich.               | Thornbury.         | Wilton.              |
| Scarborough.            | Tintagel.          | Winchcombe.          |
| Seaford.                | Tiverton.          | Winchelsea.          |
| Shaftesbury.            | Todmorden.         | Winchester.          |
| Sheffield.              | Torquay.           | Windsor.             |
| Shoreham.               | Torrington.        | Wisbech.             |
| Shrewsbury.             | Totnes.            | Witney.              |
| Solyhull.               | Tower Hamlets.     | Wokingham.           |
| Southampton.            | Tregony.           | Wolverhampton.       |
| Southend.               | Trowbridge.        | Woodstock.           |
| South Molton.           | Truro.             | Wootton Bassett.     |
| South Shields.          | Tunbridge Wells.   | Worcester.           |
| Southwark.              | Tutbury.           | Wotton-under-Edge.   |
| Southwold.              | Tynemouth.         | Wycombe.             |
| Spalding.               | Usk.               | Yarmouth (Great).    |
| Stafford.               | Uttoxeter.         | Yarmouth (I. of W.). |
| Stamford.               | Uxbridge.          | Yeovil.              |
| Steyning.               | Wakefield.         | York.                |
| Stockbridge.            | Wallingford.       |                      |
| Stockport.              | Walsall.           |                      |

## APPENDIX C.

### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

IT was the original intention of the compilers to have included a Select List of printed authorities in an Appendix, but no space remained at their disposal. It will be found, however, that reference has been made in the Preface to some general works which have been largely used for the present purpose. Many other works of special or local interest are referred to in the Introduction or in the Repertory itself, though many others which were used have not been cited. Similarly, no attempt has been made to refer to all the printed Statutes or State Papers that deal with the custody or use of Records of a public nature.

It may, however, be helpful to students who have not made a special study of the Bibliography of Archives to keep in view the following outline classification of the subject.<sup>1</sup>

#### PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO ARCHIVES.

1. Bibliographies (including Library Catalogues, Printed or in MS.).
2. Directories or "Guides".
3. Inventories or Lists (including official Lists in MS.).
4. Calendars and Indexes (including those in MS.).
5. Texts (including Extracts and MS. Transcripts).
6. Modern Works relating to Archives, or to Local History (Regional, County, Municipal, Parochial, Ecclesiastical), Local Institutions, and Biography.

<sup>1</sup> For details see Hall, *Studies*, pp. 101-110.

It is important to note that valuable specimens of most of the above types occur in Periodical Publications, *e.g.* Parliamentary Papers, official Reports, and Proceedings of Learned Societies, or Local Antiquarian Journals.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gross, *Sources and Literature and Municipal Bibliography*; H. Hall (and others), *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History* (Appendix).

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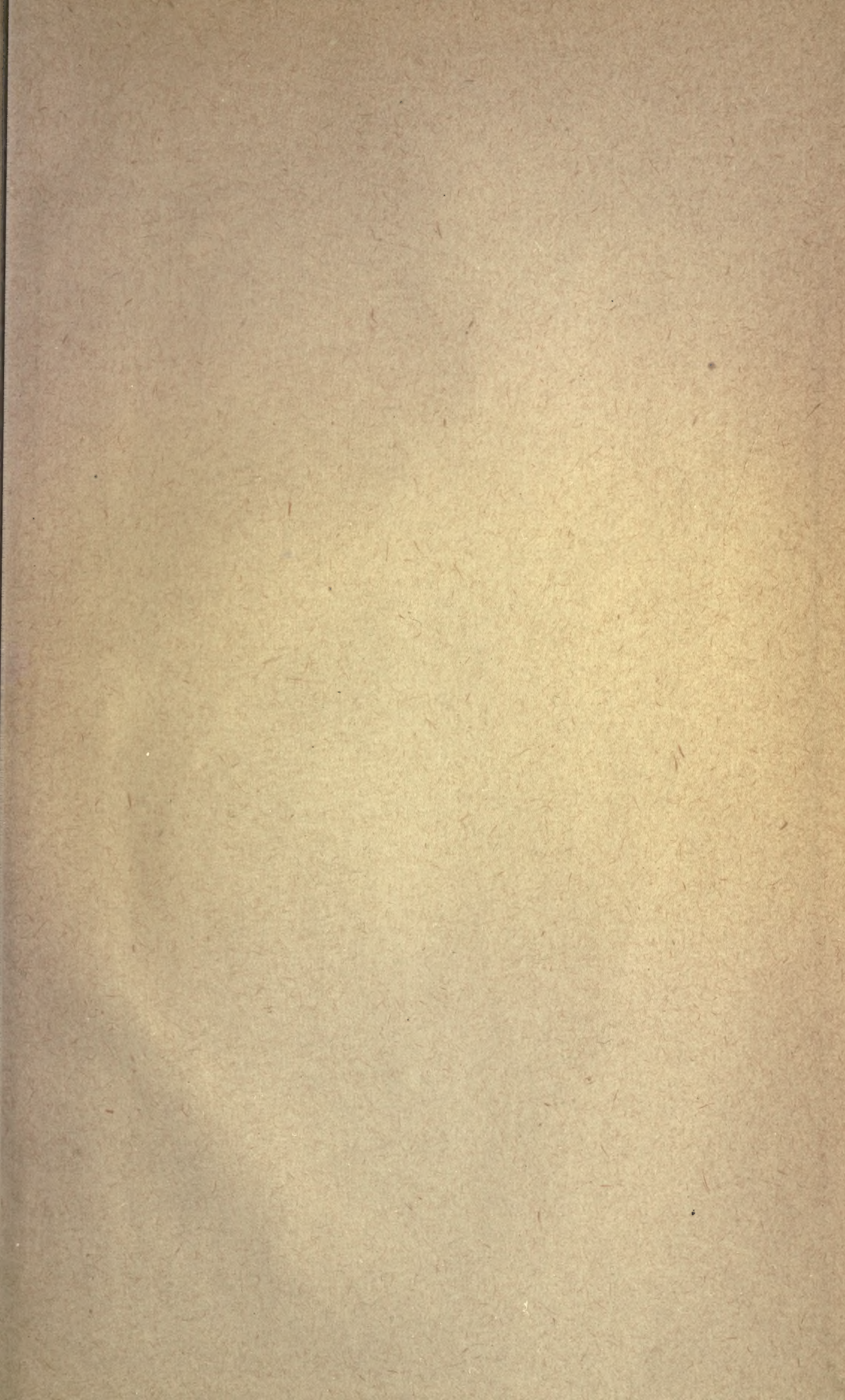
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